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Figure 6. Combine harvesting of sulphur-flower buckwheat

Seed cleaning and conditioning

Thresh combined material using a “dewinger,” barley de-bearder, or brush machine. Remove fine material such as bract, leaf and stem debris using an air-screen separator. Trashy seed lots may first be run through the air-screen separator to remove large stems and leaves. This is usually not necessary when seed is harvested by combine.

Post-harvest seed conditioning involves proper drying techniques. Low-volume warm-air drying reduces seed moisture content and prevents seed damage. Seed moisture content should not exceed 15 percent for proper storage.

Seed certification and marketing

Viability or germination and purity as well as certification should be provided for all certified seed produced. Marketed seeds should be cleaned to 95 percent purity. Jorgensen and Stevens (2004) recommended that purchased seed have a minimum germination percentage of 75 percent.

Seed production contracts with government agencies or private corporations are viable options for marketing sulphur-flower buckwheat. There is also a developing niche market for sulphur-flower buckwheat seed in the expanding sector of home xeric gardening.

Resources

BLM Seed Procurement <http://www.blm.gov/or/procurement/index.php>

Drip Irrigation: An Introduction <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/em/em8782-e.pdf>

Great Basin Native Plant Selection & Increase Project <http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/research/shrub/greatbasin.shtml>

Idaho Crop Improvement Assn. Seed Certification <http://www.idahocrop.com/>

Jorgensen, Kent R. and Richard Stevens. 2004. Ch. 24. Seed collection, cleaning, and storage. In: Restoring western ranges and wildlands. Gen. Tech. Report RMRS-GTR-136-vol.3. Ft. Collins, CO: USDA FS, Rocky Mtn. Research Station. pp. 699–716 http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr136_3.pdf

Oregon State Seed Certification Service <http://seedcert.oregonstate.edu/home>

Oregon State University Malheur Experiment Station <http://www.cropinfo.net>

Shock, Clinton, Erik Feibert, Monty Saunders, and Nancy Shaw. 2010. Native Wildflower Seed Production with Limited Subsurface Drip Irrigation. pp. 193–209 in Malheur Experiment Station Annual Report 2009. <http://www.cropinfo.net/AnnualReports/2009/ForbIrrigation2009.html>

USDA, NRCS 2010. The PLANTS Database <http://plants.usda.gov/>

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