

SUMMARY COMMENTS AND STATUS OF HORIZONTAL DS 8^a. WEEDS

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

There was general agreement on the need to **re-draft this desk study** in order to introduce the missing elements of comparison of existing standards and evaluation of their pros and cons from a point of view of horizontal standardisation. Such work should be completed by March 2004.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

HORIZONTAL DESK STUDY 8^A. CONTAMINATION WITH GERMINATING WEEDS

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Report following the receipt of comments

As for phytotoxicity, the study was focussed mainly on the description of a practicable method that had been discussed and agreed upon in the project team. Apart from one comment that estimated the method described as not applicable and furthermore questions the affiliation to the “Horizontal” project, the principles of the procedure are mostly accepted.

Again, some methods provided to the “horizontal” team have unfortunately not been passed on to our team (namely the French method), they will be considered in the reviewing process

The following comments and remarks have been provided:

- Include Soil Improvers and Growing Media in the scope
- Soil
 - Include soil in the introduction
 - Exclude soil
- Differentiate between water holding capacity and moisture content – the latter is more important for the method

- Cover – different materials might be used
- Air gap between cover and pot
- Control reference
 - Peat
 - No reference (too short duration of experiment)
- Addition of nitrogen and other nutrients (possible limiting factors)
- Weekly or bi-weekly recording instead of daily measurements
- Duration of exposure
 - 2 – 4 weeks according to the purpose of use for the tested material
 - 15 days
 - 3 + 10 + 10 days
 - longer period of thermal shock (< 4°C)
- exact definition of growing conditions
 - temperature
 - process of wetting
- Dilution of the test material
 - Particle size of diluent according to test material
 - Dilution to max. 1,5 mS/cm
 - Process regarding EC is too accurate
- Screening of the material 10 – 15mm
- Triplicates – this has been an error in the text, it should read triplicates
- Use of a deeper tray, bottom covered with perlite
- Change of the title – viable propagules

Proposal

Evaluation of the suggestions, possibly within the “expert group” nominated for phytotoxicity, consideration in the method and subjection to inter-lab testing.