DEFINITION OF TERMS

Definition of Terms used for Purposes of the Montana Certification Program taken from the Terminology of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies.

A. **Variety**

The term variety (cultivar) denotes an assemblage of cultivated individuals which are distinguished by any characters (morphological, physiological, cytological, chemical or others) significant for the purposes of agriculture, forestry, or horticulture and which, when reproduced (sexually or asexually) or reconstituted, retain their distinguishing features.

B. **Classes of Seed Recognized in Seed Certification**

1. **Breeder** -
   Breeder seed is seed directly controlled by the originating or sponsoring plant breeding institution, or person, or designee thereof. As applied to certified seed, breeders seed is the source for the production of seed of the other classes of certified seed.
2. **Foundation**
   Foundation seed is seed which is the progeny of breeder or Foundation seed produced under control of the originator or sponsoring plant breeding institution, or person, or designee thereof. As applied to certified seed, Foundation seed is a class of certified seed which is produced under procedures established by the certifying agency for the purpose of maintaining genetic purity and identity.
3. **Registered**
   Registered seed shall be the progeny of Breeder or Foundation seed handled under procedures acceptable to the certifying agency to maintain satisfactory genetic purity and identity.
4. **Certified**
   Certified seed shall be the progeny of Breeder, Foundation, or Registered seed so handled as to maintain satisfactory genetic purity and identity, and which has been acceptable to the certifying agency. Certified tree seed is defined as seed from trees produced so as to assure genetic identity. Seeds from interspecific hybrids of forest trees may be included.

C. **Plant Breeder**

Person or organization actively engaged in the breeding and maintenance of varieties of plants.

D. **Off-types**

"Off-type" means any seed or plant not a part of the variety in that it deviates in one or more characteristics from the variety as described and may include, seeds or plants of other varieties; seeds or plants not necessarily any variety; seed or plants resulting from cross-pollination by other kinds or varieties; seeds or plants resulting from uncontrolled self-pollination during production of hybrid seed, or segregates from any of the above plants.

E. **Inbred Line**

An inbred line is a relatively true-breeding strain resulting from at least five successive generations of controlled self-fertilization or of backcrossing to a recurrent parent with selection or its equivalent.

F. **Single Cross**

The first generation of a cross of two inbred lines, an inbred line and a Foundation backcross, or of two Foundation back-crosses.

G. **Foundation Single Cross**

A Foundation single cross is a single cross used in the production of Foundation backcrosses or of double, three-way, or top crosses.

H. **Foundation Backcrosses**

1. A first generation Foundation backcross shall be the first generation cross between a Foundation single cross of related inbred lines and an inbred line which shall be the same as one of the inbreds in the Foundation single cross.
2. A second generation Foundation backcross shall be the cross of a first generation backcross (ear parent) with its recurrent inbred parent (pollen parent).

I. **Double Cross**

The first generation hybrid between two Foundation single crosses.

J. **Top Cross**

The first generation of a cross between an open-pollinated variety and an inbred line, a Foundation backcross, or a Foundation single cross.

K. **Three-way Cross**

The first generation of a cross of a Foundation single cross and an inbred line or a Foundation backcross.

L. **Open-Pollination**

Open-pollinated seed is seed produced as a result of natural pollination as opposed to hybrid seed produced as a result of controlled pollination.

M. **Variants**

1. Variants are defined as seeds or plants which are: (a) distinct within the variety but occur naturally in the variety; (b) are stable and predictable with a degree of reliability comparable to other varieties of the same kind, within recognized tolerances, when the variety is reproduced or reconstituted; and (c) which were originally a part of the variety as released. Variants are not to be considered off-types.
2. That the Breeder should identify variants as a part of the variety description, but the expected rate of occurrence of the variant need be stated only when the Breeder considers the variant to be an aid in identifying the variety.
3. That the tolerances in Table 4, Section 201.62, Part 201 of the Federal Seed Act be applied to those variants which are described by the Breeder as useful in identification of the variety.

   The majority of the Committee was not in favor of establishing a minimum or maximum range of variants in a variety.

N. **Conditioning**

The mechanical handling of seed from harvest until marketing.