

Report to the AIS Board of Directors
April 2021
IMAGE COORDINATOR
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INFORMATION ONLY

The requirement for images with cultivar registration was introduced in 2017. Originally it required submission of images and registration forms to both the registrar and the image coordinator. This was never implemented (unfortunately), however images began to come in through direct appeal. Requests and instructions were shared via the journal, the website, the newsletter and other outlets. Responses were sent when requests for assistance or clarifications were received. Many direct appeals were ignored. The 2019 results were analyzed and shared with the Board. There was general disappointment with the percentage of compliance.* In 2020 the requirement was modified for image submission only with registration effective 2021. Again multiple methods were employed to notify registrants.

As of this date images continue to be submitted. Those that represent 2021 Introductions cannot be analyzed with great specificity. This is due to several factors.

- The images are submitted with a generic, camera assigned file name. I will edit those if the information is in the email but registration and introduction dates remain unclear.
- Many images are submitted with a date in the file name, but it may be either reg. or intro.
- Although disseminated, the requirement is being observed by primarily two groups:
 - o The largest hybridizers, whose contacts are clear and systems established.
 - o Enthusiastic smaller hybridizers, eager to see their introductions online.
- The transition of registrars and discussions of changing processes amongst leadership
- Undoubtedly the COVID situation has introduced some unseen hurdles.

The current situation is fluid and influenced by some of the above factors complicated by the changes that have been imposed and modified in only 4 years. It is confusing for me. I expect that hybridizers and registrants are unclear. I continue to believe that the difficulty in communication among leadership in affected areas contributes to the ability to implement a consistent plan.

I am aware that overhaul of the entire system is under consideration, but have not received any concrete response to my request. I was not aware of the survey of hybridizers the results of which were recently shared. I was disappointed that this outreach did not include input on the submission of images. It would have been a perfect opportunity and another survey, right on its heels would be less affective.

*The percentage of responses to a recent survey of hybridizers is similar.

Respectfully submitted,
Neil Houghton, AIS Image Coordinator
23 April, 2021