PRESS RELEASE: April 26, 2019  Contact: Gene Milstein (303) 906-2268

SUBJECT: COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SEED TECHNOLOGY COURSES (Seed Analyst Training) and the
SEEDIMAGES.COM website.

FROM: SEED TECHNOLOGY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (STEP) at Colorado State University (CSU)

STEP was established at CSU in 1998 and is described by the Crop Science Society of America as a “nationally
known educational training program.” STEP is also recognized by the Association of Official Seed Analysts
(AOSA) and the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists (SCST).

STEP offers 8 Courses in Seed Technology to train seed analysts to work in State or Commercial Seed
Laboratories. A Certificate in Seed Technology is awarded to students who complete the requirements as
described on the website (http://seeds.agsci.colostate.edu/step-into-the-world-of-seeds/).

The courses are invaluable for anyone who wants a career in seed technology or for current analysts working to
become a Registered Seed Technologist (RST) or a Certified Seed Analyst (CSA). The STEP Course Program is
designed to help fill a well-documented need for new seed analysts within the industry. The courses are offered
on line through the Continuing Education Dept. at CSU.

There is a Scholarship Program available for students needing financial assistance. Up to half of the cost of the
courses are covered through this program. Anyone interested should contact Karen Allison at 970-491-6295 or
email her at karen.allison@colostate.edu.

STEP courses are offered through CSU, Virginia Polytechnic and the Indiana Crop Improvement Association.
The STEP courses received the "2012 Seed Science Award" from the Seed Science Society of America for its
contribution to Research, Teaching, Professionalism, Service, Extension and Administration. A new course has
been added this year: Seed Quality--Seed Production and Genetics. It will be taught by Roger Levy with a Ph.D.
from the University of Illinois in Genetics and extensive industry experience. Gil Waibel of Indiana Crop
Improvement Association teaches the Seed Vigor course. Mr. Waibel has over 30 years’ experience as an expert
seed analyst and seed lab director.

The courses offered include:
1. Seed Anatomy and Identification
2. Seed Development and Metabolism
3. Seed Germination and Viability
4. Seed Purity and Analysis
5. Seed Vigor
6. Seed Storage and Deterioration
7. Vegetable Seed Production
8. Seed Quality--Seed Production and Genetics
STEP also has a unique website SeedImages.Com with over 1700 color photos of native, crop and weed seeds to help the seed analyst and anyone in the seed industry identify unknown or questionable seeds. Seedimages.com also includes written descriptions of the species and 100X magnification for ease of identification. The site has a user-friendly search mechanism for many different seed characteristics including size, shape, color, and texture. Identification is by common and scientific name. Species included are agricultural grain, forage, vegetable, tree, shrub, herb, flower and state and federal noxious weeds.

One of the most useful options is the Seed Comparison Tool that allows one to identify seeds that look similar by showing 2 seeds side-by-side on the same screen. A video demonstration of how the database works can be seen by going to SeedImages.com and clicking on the “Seed Database Demo link. SeedImages.com is a Virtual Herbarium and a valuable resource for seed technologists, conditioners, company managers, educators and related research institutions. Cost is $100/year or $175/ 2 years. If you would like a trial subscription, there are three options: 3 days $10.00, 3 months $35.00 and 6 months $65.00. To renew your subscription or to initially subscribe, visit the SEED IMAGES website at www.seedimages.com and click on the “Subscribe Now” link.

For further information on the STEP Course Program and SeedImages.com contact Karen Allison at karen.allison@colostate.edu. Phone # (970) 491-6295.