**Seed Certifying Agency** - General term for the state or other agency responsible for the release and certification of crop varieties and for inspecting and approving seed produced under one of the seed certification classes. Most seed certification agencies are members of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA).

**Seed Lot** - A definite quantity of seed identified by a lot number, every portion or bag of which is uniform, within permitted tolerances, for the factors that appear on the labeling.

**Selected Class Release** - (1) Seed that is the progeny of rigidly selected seed or stands of untested parentage that have promise but not proof of genetic superiority, and for whichgeographic source and elevation shall be stated on the certification label. (2) One of the classes of pre-varietal releases recognized by AOSCA.

**Selection** - Selecting an accession or accessions from an assembly, or individuals from within an accession, to obtain the plants having the best characteristics for a particular conservation use.

**Selective Herbicide** - A chemical that is more toxic to some plant species than to others.

**Self Pollination -** The transfer of pollen from the anther of a flower to the stigma of the same flower, or different flowers on the same plant.

**Seral** - Refers to species or communities that are eventually replaced by other species or communities within a sere.

**Seral Community** - One of a series of biotic communities that follow one another in time on any given area. Syn. successional community.

**Seral Stages** - The developmental stages of an ecological succession.

**Sere** - All temporary communities in a successional sequence. The complete series of ecological communities occupying a given area over hundreds or thousands of years from the initial to the final or climax stage.

**Sod Seeding** - Direct drilling of seed into sod of existing vegetation with no mechanical seedbed preparation.

**Soil Application** - Chemical applied mainly to the soil surface rather than to vegetation.

**Soil Incorporation** - Mechanical mixing of a chemical with the soil.

**Soil Injection** - Mechanical placement of a chemical beneath the soil surface with a minimum of mixing or stirring.

**Soil Sterilant** - A biocide that prevents the growth of plants and kills all living organisms when present in the soil. Soil sterilization effects may be temporary or permanent.

**Source-Identified Seed -** (1) Source identified propagating materials are seed, seedlings, or other propagating materials collected from natural stands, seed production areas, seed fields, or orchards where no selection or testing of the parent population has been made. (2) One of the classes of pre-varietal releases recognized by AOSCA.

**Stand** - (1) A population of plants. (2) Density of population or number of individuals per unit area.

**Standard Plant** - (1) A commonly used species or, if available, variety for the use of which an evaluation is being made. (2) A plant which serves as the standard for comparison.

**Strain** - (1) A group of organisms of common origin having one or more definite morphological or physiological characteristics that are heritable. (2) A term to include breed differences within a species, or as a group of plants differing little, if any, in morphology yet physiologically distinct in some additional quality such as yield or vigor: i.e., the northern and southern strains of smooth brome. Strain also means variety, ecotype, biotype, type, or a group of these.

**Study** - An activity at a PMC that develops a product to address a conservation need identified in the PMC LRP. A PMC study must be outlined in a study plan and be identified in the PMC Business Plan and Workload Analysis. Refer to Part 540.52 of the NPMM for more information on PMC studies.

**Study Plan** - A comprehensive document that outlines the details of a PMC study. Refer to Part 540.52 of the NPMM for more information on PMC study plans.

**Subspecies -** A grouping within a species used to describe geographically isolated variants, a category above “variety”, and is indicated by the abbreviation “ssp.” in the scientific name.

**Succession** - (1) The progressive replacement of plant communities on a site which leads to the potential natural plant community, i.e., attaining stability. Primary succession entails simultaneous successions of soil from parent material and vegetation. Secondary succession occurs following disturbances on sites that previously supported vegetation, and entails plant succession on a more mature soil. (2) The progressive development of vegetation toward its highest ecological expression, the climax replacement of one plant community by another.

**Surfactant** - A material that facilitates and accentuates the emulsifying, dispersing, spreading, wetting, and other surface-modifying properties of herbicide formulation.

**Suspension** - A system consisting of very finely divided solid particles dispersed in a solid, liquid, or gas.

**Synergism** - Cooperative action of different chemicals or organisms such that the total effect is greater than the sum of the independent effects.

**Synthetic Variety** - Advanced generation progenies of a number of clones or lines (or of hybrids among them) obtained by open-pollination.

**Testcross** - A cross of a double or multiple heterozygote to the corresponding multiple recessive to test for homozygosity or linkage.

**Tested Seed -** (1) Seeds or plants which have been through additional testing on more than one generation which will include testing on multiple sites with replicated plots to verify performance and heritability of desirable traits. The material has proven genetic superiority or possesses distinctive traits for which heritability is stable as defined by the certifying agency. (2) One of the classes of pre-varietal releases recognized by AOSCA.

**Tetraploid** - An organism having four basic sets of chromosomes.

**Topcross Progeny** - Progeny from outcrossed seed of selections, clones or lines crossed with a single variety or line that serves as a common pollen parent.

**Translocated Herbicide** - An herbicide that is distributed throughout the plant from the point of entry. Syn. Systemic herbicide.

**Trend** - The direction of change in ecological status or resource value rating observed over time. Trend in ecological status should be described as toward, or away from the potential natural community, or as not apparent. Trend in a resource value rating for a specific use should be described as up, down or not apparent. Trends in resource value ratings for several uses on the same site at a given time may be in different directions, and there is no necessary correlation between trends in resource value ratings and trend in ecological status. Some agencies use trend only in the context of ecological status. Syn. range condition trend. See and “apparent trend”.

**Type** - A group of varieties so nearly similar that the individual varieties cannot be clearly differentiated except under special conditions. For further information, refer to the Federal Seed Act Rules and Regulations.

**Use Groups** - The artificial grouping for the comparative testing of plant materials having similar uses.

**Variety** - (1a) The botanical nomenclature division consisting of more or less recognizable entities within species that are not genetically isolated from each other, below the level of subspecies, and is indicated by the abbreviation “var.” in the scientific name (see “botanical variety”); (1b) The rank of taxa below subspecies but above forma; a plant which retains most of the characteristics of the species, but differs in some way such as flower or leaf color, size of mature plant, etc. A variety is added to the specific binomial and preceded by "var.", such as *saxatilis* in the epithet *Juniperus communis* var. *saxatilis*. (2) Term used in some national and international legislation to denominate one clearly distinguishable taxon from another; equivalent to “cultivar”. (Note: the Plant Materials Program does not recognize the terms “variety” and “cultivar” as equivalent.)

**Vegetation Type** - A kind of existing plant community with distinguishable characteristics described in terms of the present vegetation that dominates the aspect or physiognomy of the area. Syn. Type.

**Warm-Season Plant** - A plant that completes most of its growth during the warm part of the year, generally late in spring and in summer. Commonly a C-4 plant photosynthetic pathway.

**Wetland Communities** - Plant communities that occur on sites with soils typically saturated with or covered with water most of the growing season.