**Doris V. Baxter**

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Doris Baxter on November 19, 2015. Doris was born in Missouri on June 16, 1925. She received her Bachelor’s degree at Kansas State University and Master’s degree in Botany at the University of Michigan. Doris enhanced her seed testing skills at the Federal Field Seed Laboratory in North Brunswick, New Jersey and later transferred to the Federal Field Seed Laboratory in Sacramento, California. At that time the Sacramento laboratory was a cooperative alliance of the Federal, California State, and California Crop Improvement Association laboratories. These three organizations eventually established their own independent laboratories and Doris continued on as part of the Federal Seed Laboratory. Doris eventually advanced to the position of Analyst-in-Charge of the Federal Field Seed Laboratory in Sacramento where she taught Federal Seed Workshops and was active on many AOSA and ISTA committees until her retirement in 1982. Doris was made an Honorary Member of both AOSA and SCST.

After retirement Doris realized she wanted to share her love for seed testing and more than three decades of experience with future generations of seed analysts by taking on the revision of portions of USDA Handbook No. 30, Manual for Testing Agricultural and Vegetable Seeds (considered THE authoritative reference for seed testing); originally published in 1952. As a result of her exhaustive collaborative work with Dr. Larry Copeland, we now have a new and greatly improved guidebook for seed testing entitled *Seed Purity & Taxonomy* containing more than 2,500 seed images, diagnostic keys and other helpful information on purity analysis and seed identification.

In addition to her seed testing activities, Doris enjoyed playing the organ at church and was active in the Sacramento Organ Guild. A Memorial Service will be offered on December 15 at the First United Methodist Church, 2100 J Street, Sacramento, CA. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to any of the following: The Sacramento United Methodist Union, Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 980250, W. Sacramento, CA 95798; The First United Methodist Church Permanent Endowment Fund, 2100 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95816; UMCOR, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 01115.

Doris was a great teacher and wonderful person and we will miss her.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Effenberger and Deborah Meyer, California Department of Food & Agriculture, Seed Science Laboratory.