

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>Introduction</i>	1
1 The occurrence of dormancy in the Gramineae	3
1.1 Wild grasses	6
1.2 Forage grasses	7
1.3 Cereal grasses	19
1.4 Weed grasses	30
1.5 Dormancy and persistence of individuals and populations	34
1.6 Xerophytes, mesophytes and hydrophytes	42
1.7 Terminology and definitions of dormancy	43
1.8 A conceptual approach for understanding seed dormancy	48
1.9 <i>Avena fatua</i> , a prototype model of grass seed dormancy	59
2 Mutual influences of inflorescence and caryopsis parts on dormancy	60
2.1 Position of the caryopsis on the parent plant	60
2.2 Lemma, palea, glumes and awns	65
2.3 The grain coat – pericarp and testa	83
2.4 Embryo and scutellum	94
2.5 Interrelation between embryo and maternal storage tissue	106
3 Environmental influences on seed dormancy	114
3.1 Water – liquid and vapour phases	114
3.2 Effects of radiation – heat/cold, light, microwaves, magnetism, photoperiodism	119
3.3 Latitudinal influences – tropical and temperate zones	158
3.4 Gases – oxygen and anoxia, carbon dioxide, ethylene, volatile organics; pressure	161
3.5 Growth regulators – promoters, inhibitors, limiting and allelopathic factors	170
3.6 Soil and agricultural practice	187

Contents

4 Timing of dormancy	195
4.1 Semantic considerations	195
4.2 Timing in the induction, maintenance and release of dormancy	197
5 Modelling the induction, maintenance and termination of dormancy in grass seeds	207
5.1 Modelling theory for biological systems	207
5.2 A 'black box' perspective of seed behaviour	210
5.3 An energy flow model for grass seed dormancy	218
5.4 Similarity and diversity among dormancy states in grass seeds	224
5.5 Conclusion	228
<i>Bibliography</i>	232
<i>Index</i>	281