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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

COUNCIL

**Fourteenth Ordinary Session
Geneva, October 15 to 17, 1980**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
AND THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIESprepared by the Office of the Union

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

1. The Technical Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") held its fourteenth session from November 12 to 14, 1979, and its fifteenth session on March 18 and 19, 1980, both under the chairmanship of Mr. A.F. Kelly (United Kingdom). The detailed reports on these sessions are reproduced in documents TC/XIV/5 and TC/XV/7. The main results achieved during these sessions are set forth below.

Fourteenth Session of the CommitteeGeneral Introduction to the Test Guidelines

2. The Committee finalized its discussion on the revised General Introduction to the Guidelines for the Conduct of Tests for Distinctness, Homogeneity and Stability of New Varieties of Plants (General Introduction to the Test Guidelines) and adopted that document subject to editing by its Editorial Committee, the authorization having been given to it by the Council during the latter's thirteenth ordinary session (see document C/XIII/17, paragraph 13). The final editing took place on March 18, 1980, and the document was eventually published in March 1980 under document number TG/1/2. According to a decision of the Committee, the General Introduction to the Test Guidelines has also been published in UPOV Newsletter No. 22, in order to give it the widest possible distribution.

3. As the above-mentioned document replaces document TG/1/1, all new Test Guidelines to be published, starting with those adopted during the fourteenth session of the Committee, will on their first page have a reference to this revised General Introduction to the Test Guidelines.

Test Guidelines

4. As a result of the successful conclusion of the work of the Technical Working Parties, the Committee adopted eight new Test Guidelines, three of them, however, under the condition that a question of detail (concerning the term "development of lobes") would be further clarified by the Technical Working Party for Vegetables. With the adoption of these eight Test Guidelines UPOV

has now established Test Guidelines for a total of 69 species. All these Test Guidelines contain also a form for a Technical Questionnaire on the species concerned. For details, see the Annex to this document.

Easy Mutations

5. The Committee had a preliminary discussion on the question of easy mutations. It was unable to reach a conclusion, however, and decided to rediscuss that question during a future session.

Fifteenth Session of the Committee

Implications of Sophisticated Methods Such as Electrophoresis or Biochemical Methods on the Testing of Distinctness

6. During its fifteenth session the Committee had a first discussion of substance on the implications of sophisticated methods such as electrophoresis or biochemical methods on the testing of distinctness. It will continue the discussions during its sixteenth session after having heard the reports of the Technical Working Parties on this subject.

The Need for the Submission of a Further Seed Sample for Testing in the Second Growing Season

7. The Committee agreed that for distinguishing purposes the first sample submitted together or in connection with the application for variety protection should be the authentic or reference sample. It further agreed that the submission of a further sample of the variety after the latter's homogeneity had been improved subsequent to the application was not permitted, but it was noted in this context that, in some instances where the results from the first year of tests were not clear, certain member States were prepared to examine a second sample. Also, it was said that a second sample could give valuable information on the homogeneity and stability of a variety, particularly in those cases where it was not possible for the examining authority to harvest seed itself from the first-year plots for sowing in the second year and for comparing successive seed generations. Finally, it was stated that for vegetatively propagated varieties no reasons existed for the demand of a further sample of plant material.

Harmonization and Cooperation in the Testing of Resistance to Diseases

8. As far as disease tests were concerned, the Committee noted a difference in the approach between the experts dealing with agricultural species and those dealing with vegetable species. During the testing of agricultural species resistance to diseases was in general only used as a distinguishing characteristic where normal methods failed to establish the distinctness of the variety under test, while for vegetable species tests on resistance to diseases were used at the very beginning to group varieties and thereby reduce the number of observations to be made. The whole subject was referred back to the Technical Working Parties for Agricultural Crops and for Vegetables which would report to the Committee during its sixteenth session.

The Need for the Testing of Parental Lines in the Case of a Hybrid Variety in Addition to the Testing of the Variety

9. The Committee took note of the different opinions and decided to continue the discussions during a future session.

TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES

Supervision of the Work of the Technical Working Parties

10. The Committee continued to supervise the work of the Technical Working Parties, especially with a view to their achieving the greatest possible efficiency. It noted the reports of the Chairmen on the progress made, gave guidance on a number of points, answered several questions raised by the Technical Working Parties, instructed them on the main aspects of their future work and approved their programs. The reports on the individual sessions of the Technical Working Parties during 1980 are or will be reproduced in documents TW/38 (Fruit Crops), TW/39 (Agricultural Crops), TW/40 (Forest Trees), TW/41 (Ornamental Plants) and TW/42 (Vegetables). The main results achieved during these sessions are set forth below.
11. The Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops held its ninth session at Wageningen (Netherlands) from May 12 to 14, 1980, under the chairmanship of Miss Jutta Rasmussen (Denmark). At that session, the Working Party finalized its work on the drafts for Test Guidelines for Flax and Linseed and for Sheep's Fescue and Red Fescue, and on those for revised Test Guidelines for Maize and for Ryegrass. It started discussions on a working paper on Test Guidelines for Soya Bean, prepared comments on a working paper on Test Guidelines for Peas established by the Technical Working Party for Vegetables, and on a Proposed Harmonized Procedure for Testing Varieties of Lolium spp. for Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability prepared by the Commission of the European Communities, and had short discussions on several general questions.
12. The Technical Working Party for Forest Trees held its eighth session at Scharnhorst (Federal Republic of Germany) from August 26 to 28, 1980, under the chairmanship of Mr. F. Schneider (Netherlands). At that session, it finalized its work on the draft for revised Test Guidelines for Poplar, bringing them closer into line with the comparable system applied by the International Poplar Commission. In addition, it continued its discussion on the draft Test Guidelines for Willow and on the problems connected with the testing of Norway Spruce and approved the draft Test Guidelines for White Cedar established by the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants.
13. The Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops held its eleventh session at Nelspruit (South Africa), from May 5 to 8, 1980, under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Berning (Federal Republic of Germany). At that session, it finalized its work on the draft Test Guidelines for Blackberry. In addition, it continued its discussion on the establishment of Test Guidelines for Citrus and started discussing working papers on Test Guidelines for Kiwi Fruit, for Japanese Plum, for Persimmon (Kakifruit) and--in a subgroup--for Quince. The experts also took the opportunity of their presence in South Africa to visit several bodies dealing with research, breeding, production and/or marketing of fruit crops in South Africa.
14. The Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants held its thirteenth session at Alnarp (Sweden) from September 16 to 18, 1980, under the chairmanship of Mr. A. George (United Kingdom). At that session, it finalized its work on the Test Guidelines for Gerbera, for Kalanchoe and for White Cedar, and on revised Test Guidelines for Rose, and prepared first drafts for revised Test Guidelines for Poinsettia and for Euphorbia fulgens. In addition, it had a preliminary discussion on the question of homogeneity of varieties of vegetatively propagated species.
15. The Technical Working Party for Vegetables held its thirteenth session at Lund (Sweden) from September 23 to 25, 1980, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Brossier (France). At that session, it clarified one pending problem with regard to the already-adopted Test Guidelines for Black Radish, for Radish and for Kohlrabi and finalized its work on the draft Test Guidelines for Celeriac, for Cornsalad and for Sweet Pepper. In addition, it prepared first drafts for revised Test Guidelines for Peas and Lettuce, the first-mentioned in cooperation with the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops.

PROGRAM FOR THE FUTURE

16. The Committee will continue its discussion on the items mentioned in paragraphs 5, 6, 8 and 9 above. It will also continue supervising the work of the Technical Working Parties and studying newly drafted or revised Test Guidelines, with a view to their adoption.

17. The Council is invited to take note of the progress made by the Committee and the Technical Working Parties since the Council's last ordinary session and to take the necessary decisions.

[Annex follows]

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ANNEX

Document Numbers of the Test Guidelines or Draft Test Guidelines
(the latter with the indication "(proj.)" after the document number)
Prepared or to be Prepared by the Office of the Union (as of September 29, 1980)

- * TG/1/2 Revised General Introduction/Introduction Générale révisé/
Revidierte Allgemeine Einführung
- * **TG/2/1** **Maize/Maïs/Mais**
- + TG/2/3(proj.) **Maize/Maïs/Mais** (revised draft)
- * TG/3/1 **Wheat/Blé/Weizen** (applicable to Triticum durum only)
- * TG/3/5 **Wheat/Blé/Weizen** (Triticum aestivum)
- * **TG/4/1** **Ryegrass/Ray-grass/Weidelgras**
- + TG/4/3(proj.) **Ryegrass/Ray-grass/Weidelgras** (revised draft)
- * TG/5/1 **Red Clover/Trèfle violet/Rotklee**
- * TG/6/1 **Lucerne/Luzerne**
- * TG/7/1 **Garden Pea/Pois Potager/Gemüseerbsen**
- TG/7/2(proj.) **Peas/Pois/Erbsen** (revised draft)
- * TG/8/1 **Broad Bean/Fève/Puffbohne**
- * TG/9/1 **Runner Bean/Haricot d'Espagne/Prunkbohne**
- * TG/10/1 **Euphorbia fulgens/Euphorbia/Korallenranke**
- TG/10/2(proj.) **Euphorbia fulgens/Euphorbia/Korallenranke** (revised draft)
- * TG/11/1 **Rose/Rosier/Rose**
- + TG/11/3(proj.) **Rose/Rosier/Rose** (revised draft)
- * TG/12/1 **French Bean/Haricot/Bohne**
- * TG/13/1 **Lettuce/Laitue/Salat**
- TG/13/2(proj.) **Lettuce/Laitue/Salat** (revised draft)
- * TG/14/1 **Apple/Pommier/Apfel**
- * TG/15/1 **Pear/Poirier/Birne** (+ TG/15/1 Corr.)
- * TG/16/1 **Rice/Riz/Reis**
- * TG/17/1 **African Violet/Saintpaulia/Usambaraveilchen**
- * TG/18/1 **Elatior Begonia/Begonia elatior/Elatior Begonie**
- * TG/19/4 **Barley/Orge/Gerste** (+ TG/19/4 Corr.)
- * TG/20/4 **Oats/Avoine/Hafer**
- * TG/21/4 **Poplar/Peuplier/Pappel**
- + TG/21/6(proj.) **Poplar/Peuplier/Pappel** (revised draft)
- * **TG/22/3** **Strawberry/Fraisier/Erdbeere**
- * **TG/23/2** **Potato/Pomme de terre/Kartoffel**
- * **TG/24/2** **Poinsettia/Poinsettie**
- **TG/24/3(proj.)** **Poinsettia/Poinsettie** (revised draft)
- * **TG/25/3** **Carnation/Oeillet/Nelke**
- * **TG/26/4** **Chrysanthemum (Perennial)/Chrysanthème (vivace)/Chrysantheme (mehrjährig)**
- * **TG/27/3** **Freesia/Freesie**
- * **TG/28/5** **Pelargonium/Pelargonie**
- * **TG/29/3** **Alstroemeria/Alstroemère/Inkalilie**
- * **TG/30/3** **Bent/Agrostide/Straussgras**
- * **TG/31/3** **Cocksfoot/Dactyle/Knaulgras**
- * **TG/32/3** **Common Vetch/Vesce commune/Saatwicke**
- * **TG/33/3** **Kentucky Bluegrass/Paturin des prés/Wiesenrispe**
- * **TG/34/3** **Timothy/Fléole des prés, Fléole diploïde/Wiesen-, Zwiebellieschgras**
- * **TG/35/3** **Cherry/Cerisier/Kirsche**
- * **TG/36/3** **Rape/Colza/Raps** (+ TG/36/3 Corr.)
- * **TG/37/3** **Turnip/Navet/Herbst-, Mairübe**
- * **TG/38/3** **White Clover/Trèfle blanc/Weissklee**
- * **TG/39/3** **Meadow-, Tall Fescue/Fétuque des prés, Fétuque élevée/Wiesen-, Rohrschwengel**
- * **TG/40/3** **Black Currant/Cassis/Schwarze Johannisbeere**
- * **TG/41/4** **European Plum/Prunier européen/Pflaume**
- * **TG/42/3** **Rhododendron**
- * **TG/43/3** **Raspberry/Framboisier/Himbeere**
- * **TG/44/3** **Tomato/Tomate**
- * **TG/45/3** **Cauliflower/Chou-fleur/Blumenkohl**
- * **TG/46/3** **Onion/Oignon/Zwiebel**
- * **TG/47/2** **Streptocarpus/Drehfrucht**
- * **TG/48/3** **Cabbage/Chou pommé/Kopfkohl** (+ TG/48/3 Corr.)
- * **TG/49/3** **Carrot/Carotte/Möhre**
- * **TG/50/3** **Vine/Vigne/Rebe**
- * **TG/51/3** **Gooseberry/Groseillier à maquereau/Stachelbeere**
- * **TG/52/2** **Red and White Currant/Groseillier à grappes/Rote und Weisse Johannisbeere**
- * **TG/53/3** **Peach/Pêcher/Pfirsich**
- * **TG/54/3** **Brussels Sprouts/Chou de Bruxelles/Rosenkohl**
- * **TG/55/3** **Spinach/Epinard/Spinat**
- * **TG/56/3** **Almond/Amandier/Mandel**
- + **TG/57/2(proj.)** **Flax, Linseed/Lin/Lein**
- * **TG/58/3** **Rye/Seigle/Roggen**
- * **TG/59/3** **Lily/Lis/Lillie**
- * **TG/60/3** **Beetroot/Betterave rouge/Rote Rübe**
- * **TG/61/3** **Cucumber, Gherkin/Concombre, Cornichon/Gurken**
- * **TG/62/3** **Rhubarb/Rhubarbe/Rhabarber**
- * **TG/63/3** **Black Radish/Radis d'été, d'automne et d'hiver/Rettich**
- * **TG/64/3** **Radish/Radis des tous les mois/Radieschen**
- * **TG/65/3** **Kohlrabi/Chou-rave/Kohlrabi**
- * **TG/66/3** **Lupins/Lupinen**
- + **TG/67/3(proj.)** **Sheep's Fescue, Red Fescue/Fétuque ovine, Fétuque rouge/Schafschwengel, Rotschwengel**
- * **TG/68/3** **Berberis/Berberitze**
- * **TG/69/3** **Forsythia/Forsythie**
- * **TG/70/3** **Apricot/Abricotier/Aprirose**
- * **TG/71/3** **Hazelnut/Noisetier/Haselnuss**
- **TG/72/1(proj.)** **Willow/Saule/Weide**
- + **TG/73/2(proj.)** **Blackberry/Ronce/Brombeere**
- + **TG/74/2(proj.)** **Celeriac/Céleri-rave/Knollensellerie**
- + **TG/75/2(proj.)** **Cornsalad/Mâche/Feldsalat**
- + **TG/76/2(proj.)** **Sweet Pepper/Piment/Paprika**
- + **TG/77/2(proj.)** **Gerbera**
- + **TG/78/2(proj.)** **Kalanchoe**
- + **TG/79/2(proj.)** **White Cedar/Thuya du Canada/Lebensbaum**

* Adopted
+ Technical Committee to adopt
- Professional Organizations to comment

Status of Test Guidelines (as of September 29, 1980)

Technical Working Party Stage	Agricultural Crops	Forest Trees	Fruit Crops	Ornamental Plants	Vegetables
adopted (total 69)	Barley Bent Cocksfoot Common Vetch Kentucky Bluegrass Lucerne Lupins Maize Meadow Fescue, Tall Fescue Oats Potato Rape Red Clover Rice Rye Ryegrass Timothy Turnip White Clover Wheat (Triticum aestivum) Wheat (Triticum durum only)	Poplar	Almond Apple Apricot Black Currant Cherry European Plum Gooseberry Hazelnut Peach Pear Raspberry Red and White Currant Strawberry Vine	African Violet Alstroemeria Berberis Carnation Chrysanthemum Elatior Begonia Euphorbia fulgens Forsythia Freesia Lily Pelargonium Poinsettia Rhododendron Rose Streptocarpus	Beetroot Black Radish Broad Bean Brussels Sprouts Cabbage Carrot Cauliflower Cucumber, Gherkin French Bean Garden Pea Kohlrabi Lettuce Onion Radish Rhubarb Runner Bean Spinach Tomato
Technical Committee to adopt (total 13)	Sheep's Fescue, Red Fescue Flax, Linseed Maize (revised) Ryegrass (revised)	Poplar (revised)	Blackberry	Gerbera Kalanchoe Rose (revised) White Cedar	Celeriac Cornsalad Sweet Pepper
Professional Organizations to comment (total 5)		Willow		Euphorbia fulgens (revision) Poinsettia (revision)	Lettuce (revised) Peas (revised)
in preparation (total 17)	Barley (revised) Oats (revised) Soya Bean Sunflower Wheat (revised)	Norway Spruce	Apple (revision) Citrus Japanese Plum Persimmon (Kaki) Kiwi Fruit Quince	Crab Apple Narcissus, Daffodil	Celery Endive Leek
planned	Cocksfoot (revision) Cotton Meadow Fescue, Tall Fescue (revision) Peanuts Safflower Timothy (revision)	Abies Douglas fir Larix conifers Pinus nigra	Apple Rootstocks Chestnut Olive Prunus Rootstocks Ribes Rootstocks Avocado	Anthurium Calluna Carnation (revision) Dahlia Erica Euphorbia milii Vriesea splendens Gladiolus Hydrangea Juniper	Curly Kale Dill French Bean (revision) Leaf Beet Parsley