

TYPE OF EXPRESSION OF
CHARACTERISTICS
(QL, QN, PQ)

Types of Expression

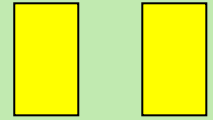
QL: QUALITATIVE

QN: QUANTITATIVE

PQ: PSEUDO-QUALITATIVE

7. Table of Characteristics/Tableau des caractères/Merkmalstabelle/Tabla de caracteres

Char. No.	English	français	Deutsch	español	Example Varieties Exemples Beispielssorten Variedades ejemplo	Note/ Nota
1. (*) (+)	Plant: growth habit	Plante : port	Pflanze: Wuchsform	Planta: porte		
QN	upright	dressé	aufrecht	erecto	Inuppink	1
	semi-upright	semi dressé	halbaufrecht	semierecto	D0158-1	2
	spreading	étalé	breitwüchsig	abierto	Sunnem 03	3
	semi-trailing	semi-étalé	halbhängend	semirrastrero	Inupsaf	4
	trailing	coureux	hängend	rastrero	Organza	5
2. (+)	Plant: height	Plante : hauteur	Pflanze: Höhe	Planta: altura		
QN	short	basse	niedrig	baja	Yateye	3
	medium	moyenne	mittel	media	D0158-1	5
	tall	haute	hoch	alta	Inuppink	7



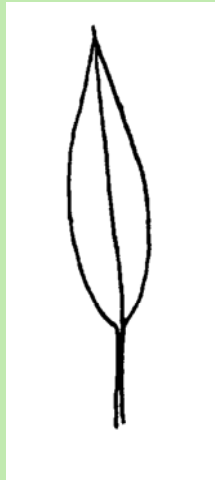
QUALITATIVE Characteristics

“Qualitative characteristics” are those that are **expressed in discontinuous states** (e.g. sex of plant: dioecious female (1), dioecious male (2), monoecious unisexual (3), monoecious hermaphrodite (4)).

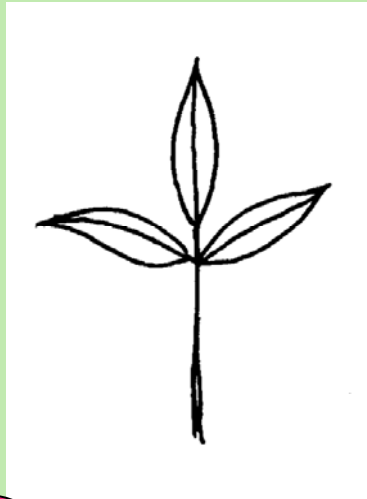
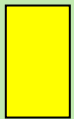
These states are self-explanatory and independently meaningful. All states are necessary to describe the full range of the characteristic, and every form of expression can be described by a single state. The order of states is not important. As a rule, the **characteristics are not influenced by environment.**

Qualitative characteristic

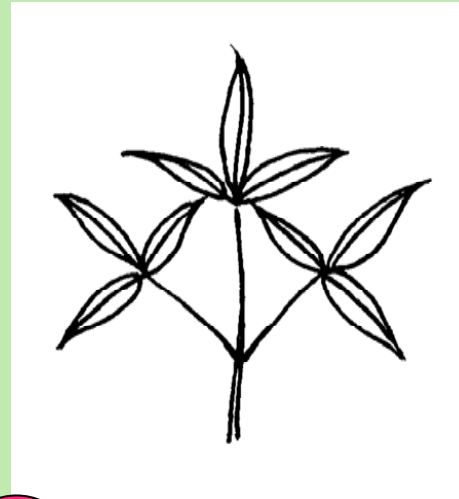
Clematis: Leaf: type



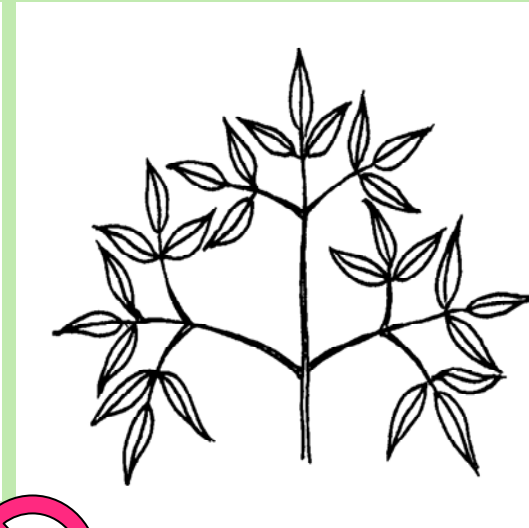
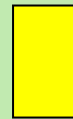
1
simple



2
ternate



3
biternate



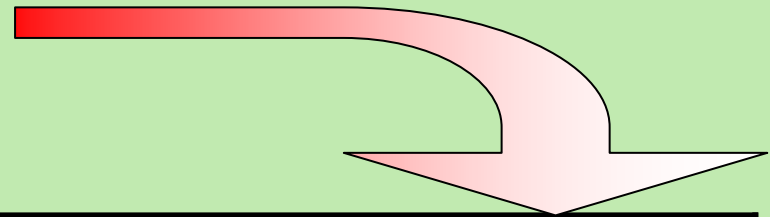
4
triternate



Qualitative (QL) characteristic?

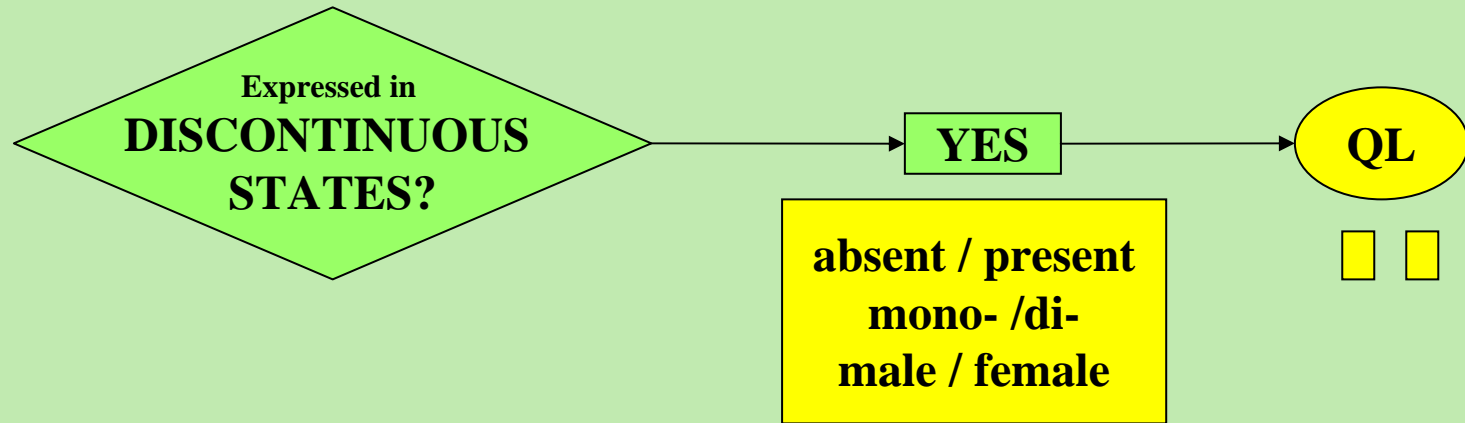
Anthocyanin coloration: QL (=absent / present)?

NO!



	Variety A	Variety B	Variety C
Environment A	absent	present	absent
Environment B	absent	present	present

QL, QN or PQ?

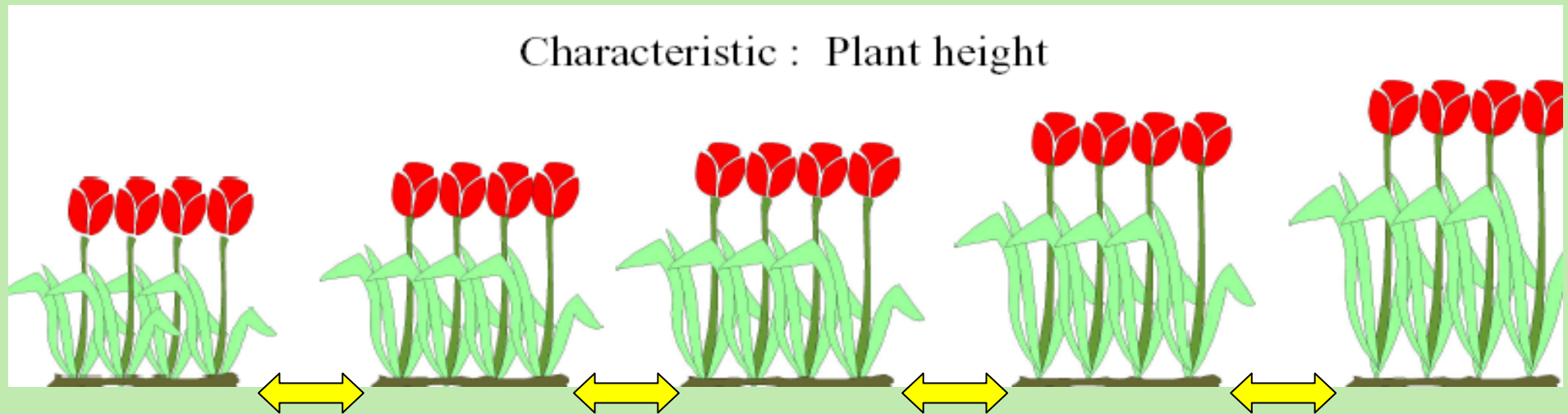


QUANTITATIVE Characteristics

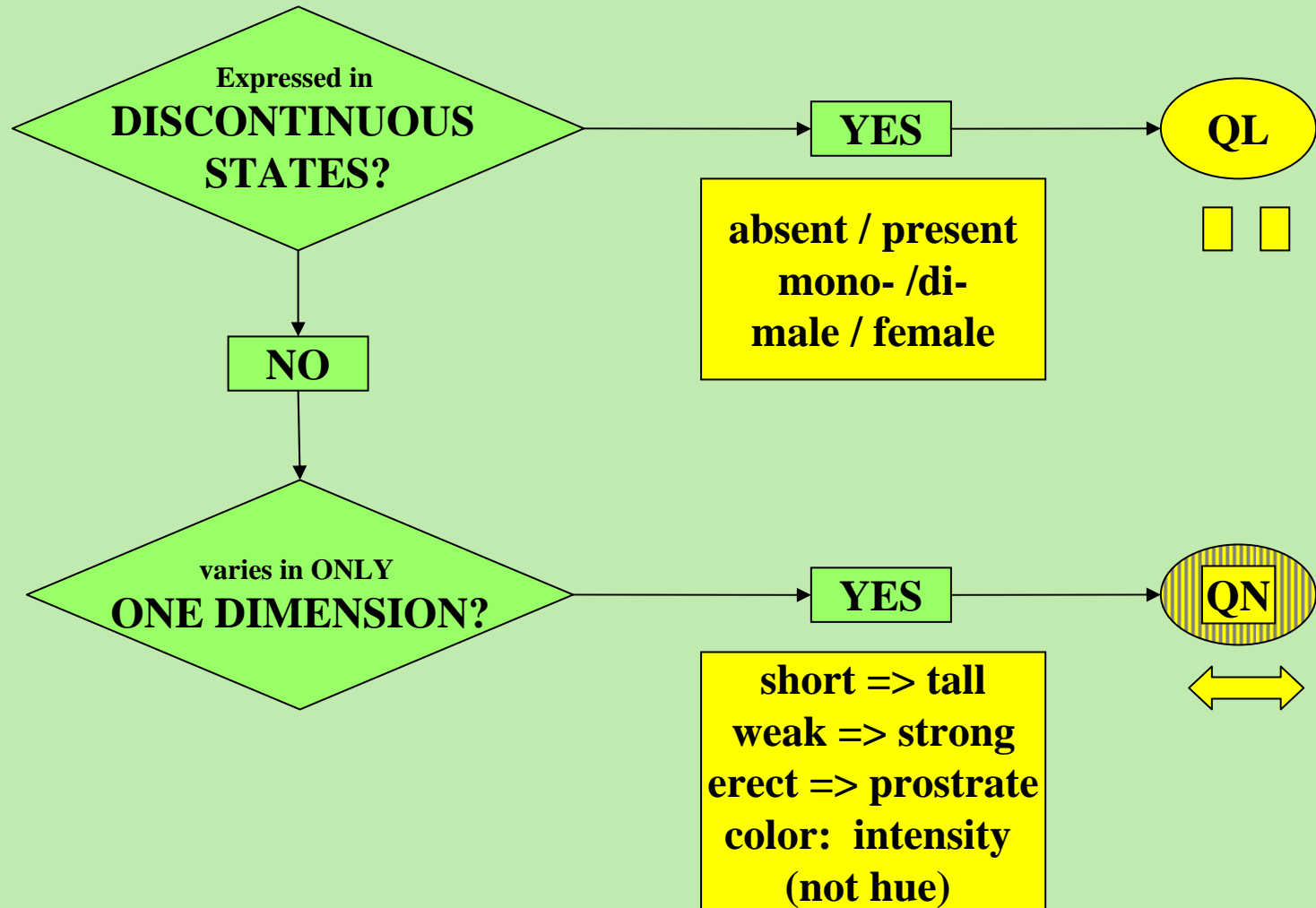


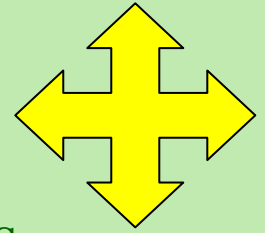
“Quantitative characteristics” are those where the expression covers the full range of variation from one extreme to the other. The **expression can be recorded on a one-dimensional, continuous or discrete, linear scale.** The range of expression is divided into a number of states for the purpose of description (e.g. length of stem: very short (1), short (3), medium (5), long (7), very long (9)). The division seeks to provide, as far as is practical, an even distribution across the scale. The Test Guidelines do not specify the difference needed for distinctness. The states of expression should, however, be meaningful for DUS assessment.

Quantitative Characteristic



QL, QN or PQ?

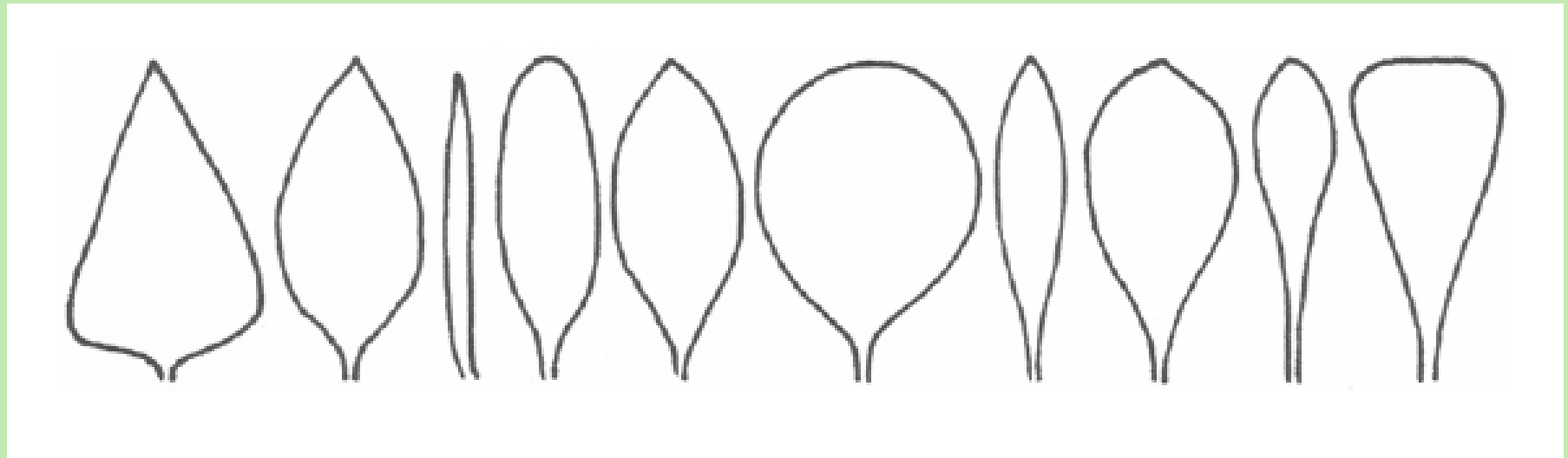




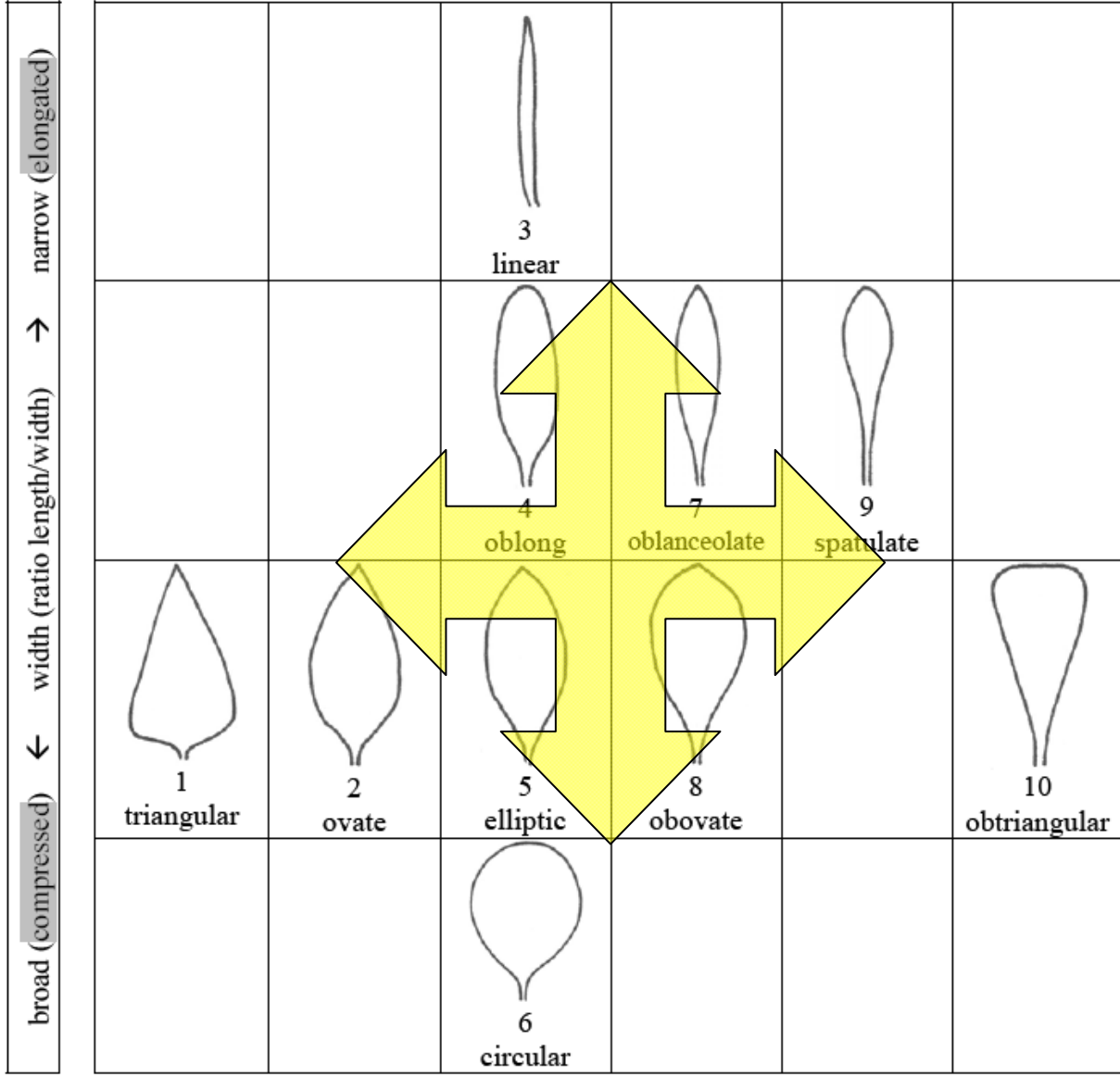
PSEUDO-QUALITATIVE Characteristics

In the case of “pseudo-qualitative characteristics,” the **range of expression is at least partly continuous, but varies in more than one dimension** (e.g. shape: ovate (1), elliptic (2), circular (3), obovate (4)) and cannot be adequately described by just defining two ends of a linear range. In a similar way to qualitative (discontinuous) characteristics – hence the term “pseudo-qualitative” – each individual state of expression needs to be identified to adequately describe the range of the characteristic.

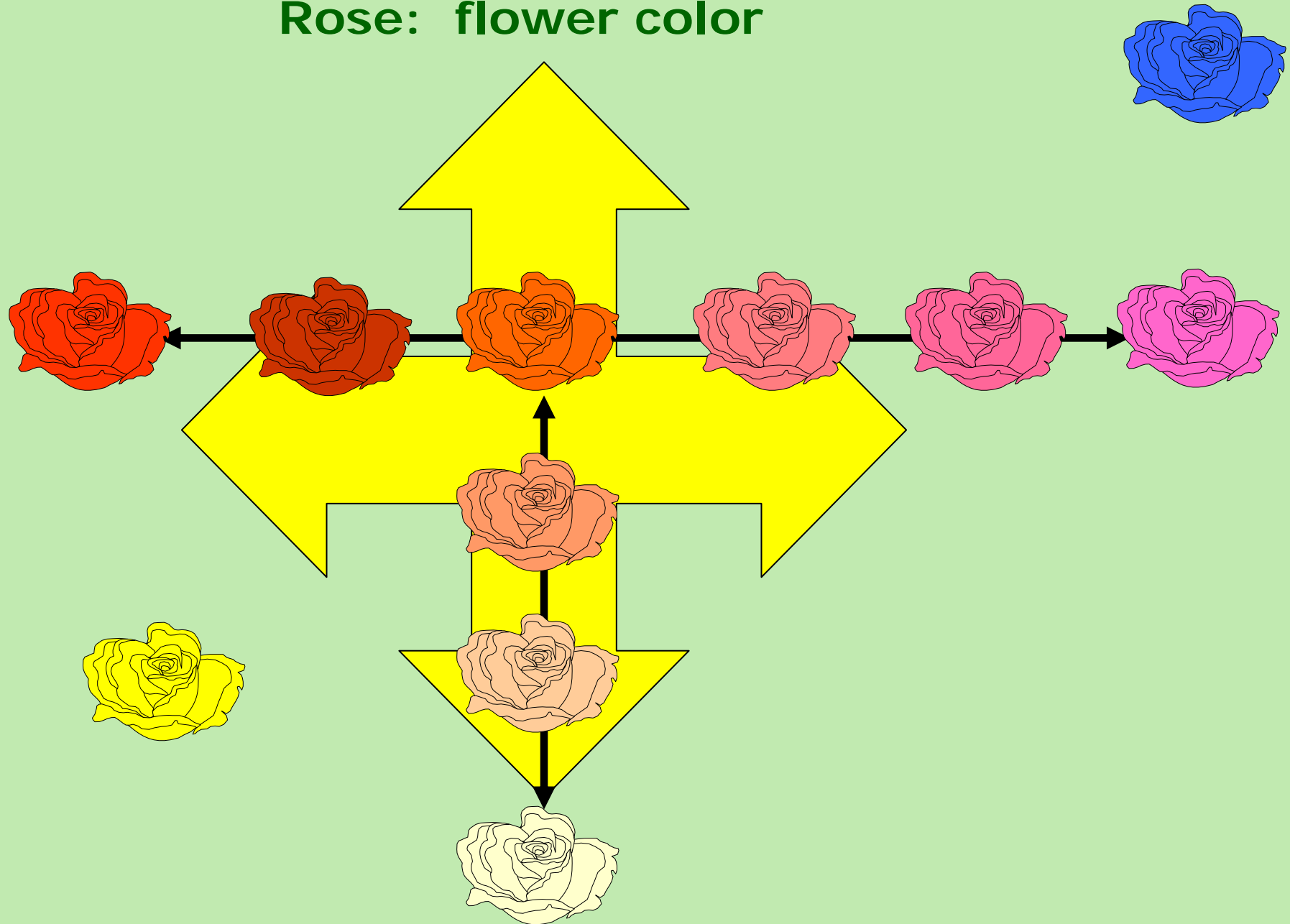
Example



← broadest part →		
(below middle)	at middle	(above middle)



Rose: flower color



QL, QN or PQ?

