



TWV/41/11

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: June 2, 2007

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR VEGETABLES

Forty-First Session
Nairobi, June 11 to 15, 2007

TEST GUIDELINES FOR CAULIFLOWER

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

Introduction

1. At the fortieth session of the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV/40), held in Guanajuato, Guanajuato State, Mexico, from June 12 to 16, 2006, the TWV discussed the Test Guidelines for Cauliflower (document TG/45/7(proj.1)) and agreed that the Test Guidelines could be presented to the Technical Committee (TC) for adoption, subject to the incorporation of the changes agreed at the session.

2. A new draft of the Test Guidelines for Cauliflower (document TG/45/7(proj.2)), incorporating the changes agreed at the TWV/40 session, was prepared for consideration by the Enlarged Editorial Committee (TC-EDC) at its meeting on January 9, 2007. Whilst the TC-EDC did not have time to consider that document, the members of the TC-EDC provided some written comments on that document. One of the comments received was that, in characteristic 26 (earliness), the separation into 3 sub-characteristics was not explained and did not correspond to the separate example varieties for five growing seasons provided in Chapter 8, Ad. 26. Furthermore, it was noted that example varieties were not provided in the Technical Questionnaire (TQ) and there was no explanation if a variety should be tested in spring/summer, autumn/early winter or over winter. In order to resolve the situation, the Leading Expert, Mr. François Boulineau (France) proposed that characteristic 26 be subdivided in the following five sub-characteristics which would then correspond to the example varieties in Chapter 8, Ad. 26:

- Char. 26.1: Earliness in spring trial (50% at harvest maturity)
- Char. 26.2: Earliness in summer trial (50% at harvest maturity)
- Char. 26.3: Earliness in autumn trial (50% at harvest maturity)
- Char. 26.4: Earliness in winter trial (50% at harvest maturity)
- Char. 26.5: Earliness in over winter trial (50% at harvest maturity)

All of the sub-characteristics 26.1 to 26.5 would then be included as grouping and TQ characteristics.

3. The above proposal was issued in circular E_436, sent on March 2, 2007, which explained that if no comments were received by the Office of the Union, the Test Guidelines would be presented to the TC for adoption, with the change to characteristic 26 as proposed above. However, a number of comments were sent to the Office of the Union (Office) in response to Circular E_436 and the Test Guidelines for Cauliflower were not put forward for adoption.

4. The Office has prepared a new draft of the Test Guidelines for Cauliflower (document TG/45/7(proj.3)) as agreed by the TWV at its fortieth session and also incorporating the information provided by the Leading Expert in response to the comments made by the members of the TC-EDC.

5. The TWV is invited to review Characteristic 26, in accordance with the comments made by the members of the TC-EDC, in order to finalize the Test Guidelines for Cauliflower to be submitted to the TC.

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