



Minimum Number of growing cycles

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Importance

- **TGP 8:**
1.2.2.7 The rationale for using independent growing cycles is that if the observed difference in a characteristic results from a genotypic difference between varieties, then that difference should be observed if the varieties are compared again in a similar environment but in an independent growing cycle



Importance

- In TGP 8 solely linked to Distinctness
- Also important for high quality stable descriptions!



Number of growing cycles

- Mentioned in TG's based on factors:
 - the number of varieties to be compared in the growing trial,
 - the influence of the environment on the expression of the characteristics, and
 - the degree of variation within varieties,
 - the features of propagation of the variety e.g. whether it is a vegetatively propagated, self-pollinated, cross-pollinated or a hybrid variety.



Independent growing cycles

- **When a characteristic is observed in a growing trial in two independent growing cycles, it is generally observed in two separate plantings or sowings.**

However, in some perennial crops, such as fruit trees, the growing cycles take the form of one trial observed in two successive years.



Independent growing cycles

- **Two cycles in same place**
 - Usually two years to have comparable environment. Two plantings in one place in one year is possible with sufficient time between plantings.
- **Two cycles in one year in two places**
 - Possible with sufficient distance between places, but risk to introduce new variation



Practice

- Roughly the present UPOV practice:
- Seed propagated agricultural and vegetable crops: two independent growing cycles
- Fruit crops: two independent growing cycles
- Vegetatively propagated ornamentals: one growing cycle



Items for discussion

- Re-think the **criteria** to establish the number of cycles. Apply on a crop by crop basis or application by application.
- Can we consider two independent **tests** instead of growing cycles? E.g. One full growing cycle plus an additional test such as a resistance test, a light sprout test or a DNA test?
- Will applicants accept a less predictable system (costs)?