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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
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REVISION OF DOCUMENT TGP/7: INDICATION OF GROWTH STAGE IN TEST GUIDELINES

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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1. The purpose of this document is to propose guidance on indicating the growth stage at which to observe characteristics in the Test Guidelines for a future revision of document TGP/7: "Development of Test Guidelines".

2. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

TC: Technical Committee
 TC-EDC: Enlarged Editorial Committee
 TWA: Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
 TWC: Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs
 TWF: Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
 TWO: Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
 TWPs: Technical Working Parties
 TWV: Technical Working Party for Vegetables

3. The structure of this document is as follows:

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BACKGROUND

4. The Technical Committee (TC), at its forty-ninth session held in Geneva from March 18 to 20, 2013, agreed that clarification should be provided in a future revision of document TGP/7 with regard to the inclusion of growth stage keys in Chapter 8 of the Test Guidelines and requested the Office of the Union to prepare draft guidance for consideration by the TWPs at their sessions in 2013 (see document TC/49/41 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 83).

EXISTING GUIDANCE IN DOCUMENT TGP/7

TG Template

5. The TG Template and associated Guidance Note (GN24) provide the following guidance for indicating the growth stage for the observation of characteristics in the Test Guidelines:

TGP/7/3 – Annex 1: TG Template page 33							
7. <u>Table of Characteristics/ Tableau des caractères/ Merkmalstabelle/ Tabla de caracteres</u>							
{ GN 12 Selecting a characteristic for inclusion in the Table of Characteristics }							
{ GN 14 Characteristics examined by patented methods }							
{ GN 15 Physiological characteristics }							
{ GN 16 New types of characteristics }							
{ GN 17 Presentation of Characteristics: Approved characteristics }							
		English	français	deutsch	español	Example Varieties/ Exemples/ Beispielsorten/ Variedades ejemplo	Note/ Nota
Char. No.	{ GN 24 Growth stage }	{ GN 18 Presentation of Characteristics: Heading of a characteristic }					
{ GN 13.1, 13.4 Asterisked characteristics }	{ GN 25 Recommendations for conducting the examination }						
{ GN 22 Explanation for individual characteristics }							
{ GN 21 Type of expression of the	{ GN 23 Explanations covering several	{ GN 19 Presentation of characteristics: General presentation of states of expression }			{ GN 28 Example varieties }		

GN 24 (TG Template: Chapter 7: column 2, header row 1) – Growth stage

In some Test Guidelines, the growth stage at which the examination of the characteristic should be done is provided here. In such cases, the stages of development denoted by each number are described in a section within Chapter 8, according to ASW 4(a).

ASW 4 (TG Template: Chapter 3.3) – Conditions for conducting the examination*Information for conducting the examination of particular characteristics**(a) Stage of development for the assessment*

“The optimum stage of development for the assessment of each characteristic is indicated by a number in the second column of the Table of Characteristics. The stages of development denoted by each number are described in Chapter 8 [...]”

GN 23

6. Guidance Note GN 23 for drafters of Test Guidelines: “Explanations covering several characteristics”, also states as follows:

GN 23 (TG Template: Chapter 7: column 2, state of expression row 1) – Explanations covering several characteristics

In cases where an explanation applies to several characteristics (e.g. part of the plant on which to observe particular characteristics, illustration of plant parts, etc.), particularly for characteristics that are not immediately consecutive in the Table of Characteristics, a note is placed in column 2 and the explanation provided in Chapter 8.1, according to ASW 11. In the case of indications of the stage of observation, those indications should be made according to GN 24 “Growth stage”.

Chapter 3.3 and GN 9

7. The TG Template and Guidance Note (GN 9) provide further guidance as follows:

TGP/7/3 – Annex 1: TG Template
page 28

3.2 Testing Place

Tests are normally conducted at one place. In the case of tests conducted at more than one place, guidance is provided in TGP/9 “Examining Distinctness”.

3.3 Conditions for Conducting the Examination

[3.3.1] The tests should be carried out under conditions ensuring satisfactory growth for the expression of the relevant characteristics of the variety and for the conduct of the examination.

{ **ASW 4** (Chapter 3.3) – conditions for conducting the examination }

{ **GN 9** (Chapter 3.3) – growth stage key }

GN 9 (TG Template: Chapter 3.3) – Growth stage key

In cases where it is appropriate to provide a growth stage key for the observation of characteristics, the following is a useful guide:

“Growth stages of mono- and dicotyledonous plants - BBCH Monograph”
(Federal Biological Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry)
ISBN Number: 3-8263-3152-4

<http://www.bba.de/veroeff/bbch/bbcheng.pdf>

PROPOSALS FOR INDICATING GROWTH STAGE AT WHICH TO OBSERVE CHARACTERISTICS IN THE TEST GUIDELINES

8. The guidance in document TGP/7 indicating the growth stage at which to observe characteristics in the Test Guidelines clarifies that such indication should be provided in the relevant cell of the Table of Characteristics (see paragraph 5) and accompanied by an explanation of the growth stage key in a separate subchapter of Chapter 8 of the Test Guidelines.

COMMENTS BY THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES IN 2013

9. The TWO, TWF, TWV, TWC and TWA considered documents TWO/46/11, TWF/44/11, TWV/47/11, TWC/31/11 and TWA/42/11, respectively (see documents TWO/46/29 "Report", paragraphs 24 to 26, TWF/44/31 "Report", paragraphs 28 to 29, TWV/47/34 "Report", paragraphs 28 and 29, TWC/31/32 "Report", paragraph 25, and TWA/42/31 "Report", paragraphs 27 and 28).

10. The TWO noted that ornamental plants are usually observed at the time of full flowering and the indication of growth stages in Test Guidelines should remain optional and used where appropriate.

11. The TWO and the TWA agreed that the Additional Standard Wording 4 (ASW 4) should be amended in order to reflect the current practice in Test Guidelines to indicate growth states using letters, numbers and combinations of letters and numbers, to read as follows:

ASW 4 (TG Template: Chapter 3.3) – Conditions for conducting the examination

Information for conducting the examination of particular characteristics

(a) Stage of development for the assessment

"The optimum stage of development for the assessment of each characteristic is indicated by a number reference in the second column of the Table of Characteristics. The stages of development denoted by each number reference are described in Chapter 8 [...]."

12. The TWA noted that GN 24 should be amended to reflect the proposed change in ASW 4, by replacing the word "number" by "reference".

GN 24 (TG Template: Chapter 7: column 2, header row 1) – Growth stage

In some Test Guidelines, the growth stage at which the examination of the characteristic should be done is provided here. In such cases, the stages of development denoted by each number reference are described in a section within Chapter 8, according to ASW 4(a).

13. The TWF considered that there was no need to amend the existing guidance in document TGP/7 with regard to the indication of the growth stage at which to observe characteristics in the Test Guidelines. The TWF agreed that the existing guidance provided sufficient information and that the indication of growth stages in Test Guidelines should remain optional and used where appropriate.

14. The TWF noted that the expert from Germany would provide an updated link for "Growth stages of mono- and dicotyledonous plants – BBCH Monograph" in GN9

GN 9 (TG Template: Chapter 3.3) – Growth stage key

In cases where it is appropriate to provide a growth stage key for the observation of characteristics, the following is a useful guide:

"Growth stages of mono- and dicotyledonous plants - BBCH Monograph"
(Federal Biological Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry)
ISBN Number: 3-8263-3152-4

<http://www.bba.de/veroeff/bbch/bbcheng.pdf>

15. The TWV considered that there was no need to amend the existing guidance in document TGP/7 with regard to the indication of the growth stage at which to observe characteristics in the Test Guidelines. The TWV agreed that the existing guidance provided sufficient information and that the indication of growth stages in Test Guidelines should remain optional and used where appropriate.

16. The TWV agreed with the TWO that the indication of growth stages in Test Guidelines should be used where appropriate, and should as far as possible use a harmonized, simple numbering, such as in the Test Guidelines for Potato (document TG/23/6) as illustrated below:

"8.3 Optimal Stage of Development for the Assessment of Characteristics

- 1 = bud stage
- 2 = flowering stage
- 3 = ripening stage of tubers
- 4 = after harvest"

17. The TWC agreed that there was no need to amend the existing guidance in document TGP/7 with regard to the indication of the growth stage at which to observe characteristics in the Test Guidelines.

PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS OF EXISTING ASW 4, GN 24 AND GN 9

18. In accordance with the comments from the TWP's in 2013, it is proposed to amend the guidance in document TGP/7 with regard to the indication of the growth stage at which to observe characteristics in the Test Guidelines as follows:

ASW 4 (TG Template: Chapter 3.3) – Conditions for conducting the examination

Information for conducting the examination of particular characteristics

(a) Stage of development for the assessment

"The optimum stage of development for the assessment of each characteristic is indicated by a number reference in the second column of the Table of Characteristics. The stages of development denoted by each number reference are described in Chapter 8 [...]."

GN 9 (TG Template: Chapter 3.3) – Growth stage key

In cases For some cases, where it is appropriate to provide a growth stage key for the observation of characteristics, the following is a useful guide:

"Growth stages of mono- and dicotyledonous plants - BBCH Monograph"

(Federal Biological Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry)

ISBN Number: 3-8263-3152-4

<http://www.bba.de/veroeff/bbch/bbcheng.pdf>

http://www.jki.bund.de/fileadmin/dam_uploads/veroeff/bbch/BBCH-Skala_englisch.pdf

In other cases, a simplified growth stages key might be more appropriate, such as the example in the Test Guidelines for Potato (document TG/23/6):

"8.3 Optimal Stage of Development for the Assessment of Characteristics

- 1 = bud stage
- 2 = flowering stage
- 3 = ripening stage of tubers
- 4 = after harvest"

GN 24 (TG Template: Chapter 7: column 2, header row 1) – Growth stage

In some Test Guidelines, the growth stage at which the examination of the characteristic should be done is provided here. In such cases, the stages of development denoted by each number reference are described in a section within Chapter 8, according to ASW 4(a).

19. *The TC-EDC is invited to note the information in this document to be presented to the TC and propose any improvements to the document in that regard.*