



TWA/32/8

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: August, 28, 2003

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

**TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY
FOR
AGRICULTURAL CROPS****Thirty-Second Session
Tsukuba, Japan, September 8 to 12, 2003****CONSIDERATION OF INTERESPECIFIC HYBRIDS BETWEEN
LOLIUM SPP. AND *FESTUCA SPP.****Prepared by the Office of the Union*

1. On July 25, 2003, the Office of the Union received a request from the International Seed Federation (ISF) to discuss the possible implications of having the definition of "Festulolium" extended to any plant variety derived from sexual hybridization between a *Lolium* and *Festuca* species. In its request, the International Seed Federation (ISF) explained that, at the moment, the accepted definition of "Festulolium" applied to hybrids between *Lolium multiflorum* Lam. and *Festuca pratensis* Huds. only. Nevertheless, at the ISF Congress from June 9-11, 2003, in Bangalore, India, the Forage and Turf Section of ISF considered the possibility of applying the term "Festulolium" to hybrids between any *Festuca spp.* and *Lolium spp.* for both forage and amenity grasses, rather than just between *Lolium multiflorum* Lam. and *Festuca pratensis* Huds. ISF requested that an item on the possible extension of the definition of "Festulolium", in particular with regard to DUS testing, be included in the Agenda for the Thirty-second Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA), to be held in Tsukuba, Japan, from September 8 to 12, 2003.

2. The Office of the Union has clarified that UPOV is not the appropriate organization to comment on the botanical classification of plant taxa. However, it noted that changes to botanical classification may have some implications for the work of UPOV concerning, for example, variety denominations (i.e., whether a variety is of the same plant species or of a

closely related species), whether protection is offered by a member of the Union and, at the technical level, the coverage of a UPOV Test Guidelines.

3. With regard to possible implications for variety denominations, it was noted that there would be no immediate impact under the current UPOV Recommendations on Variety Denominations (UPOV/INF/12 Rev.) since *Lolium spp.* and *Festuca spp.* are contained in the same class for this purpose. However, it was recalled that the UPOV Recommendations are currently under review by the Ad hoc Working Group on Variety Denominations (WG-VD) and suggested that it would be appropriate to report this possible development concerning “Festulolium” for consideration by the WG-VD when it discussed the review of the list of classes for variety denomination purposes.

4. With regard to the matter of Test Guidelines, it was agreed with the Chairman of the TWA that the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA) should be invited to consider the implications of extending the definition of *Festulolium* to cover all hybrids between *Lolium* and *Festuca* species. At present, UPOV does not have Test Guidelines covering *Festulolium* and the first step seems to be to consider whether Test Guidelines should be developed and what their coverage would be. Thus, the TWA might wish to consider if Test Guidelines should be developed to cover all crosses between *Lolium spp.* and *Festuca spp.*, or whether different Test Guidelines should be developed for different crosses.

5. The following Test Guidelines have been adopted for *Festuca spp.* and *Lolium spp.*

Doc. No.	Language	Adopted	English	Latin
TG/4/7	Tril.	1990	Ryegrass (future revision)	<i>Lolium multiflorum</i> Lam., <i>L. perenne</i> L.
TG/39/8	E, F, G, S	2002	Meadow Fescue, Tall Fescue	<i>Festuca pratensis</i> Huds. & <i>Festuca arundinacea</i> Schreb.
TG/67/4	Tril.	1980	Sheep’s Fescue (including Hard Fescue), Red Fescue	<i>Festuca ovina</i> L. sensu lato & <i>F. rubra</i> L.

6. *The TWA is invited to consider the revision of existing Test Guidelines, or development of new Test Guidelines concerning interspecific hybrids between Festuca spp. and Lolium spp.*

[End of document]