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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR AGRICULTURAL CROPS

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PROPOSAL FOR A PARTIAL REVISION OF THE TEST GUIDELINES FOR SWEDE

Document prepared by an expert from the United Kingdom

1. The Test Guidelines for Swede (document TG/89/6) were revised in 2001. However, since 2001, there have been applications for new types of swede varieties which are not adequately covered by the current Test Guidelines. To address those new types, it is proposed that there be a partial revision of the Test Guidelines in order to add a new characteristic. There is also a proposal to delete a characteristic which is no longer useful.

2. The proposals for partial revision will be considered by the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV) at its forty-second session and by the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA) at is thirty-seventh session. The discussion at the forty-second session of the TWV will be reported to the thirty-seventh session of the TWA.

3. The proposed modifications are as follows:

Proposal to delete Char. 23 “Root: dry matter content”

4. Background: Prior to 2001 swede varieties were bred both for use as a fodder crop and as a vegetable. Dry matter content was important for the discrimination of fodder varieties as there is a relationship between dry matter and tolerance to low temperatures. New varieties submitted for test since 2001 have been bred mainly for the vegetable market. The recording of dry matter content is no longer useful for discriminating new varieties as there is little variation in this characteristic in vegetable varieties.

5. If this proposal is approved, this characteristic should be deleted from Chapter VII Table of Characteristics (Char 23), Chapter VIII Explanations on the Table of Characteristics (Ad. 23) and Chapter X Technical Questionnaire (7.3).

Proposal to introduce a new characteristic "Flower: production of pollen

6. Background: The recent introduction of F1 hybrid varieties in Swede has resulted in the DUS testing of male sterile hybrids and male sterile and male fertile parent lines. Breeding of new F1 hybrids is continuing and it is envisaged that male sterility will be used in the breeding of future varieties. Therefore, it is proposed to make the following additions to the Test Guidelines:

Chapter V. Grouping of Varieties

Flower: production of pollen (characteristic 23)

Chapter VII. Table of Characteristics

23.	**410-470**	**Flower: production of pollen**		
(*)		absent	Tweed	1
(+)		present	Magres	9

Chapter VIII. Explanations on the Table of Characteristics

Ad. 23: Flower: production of pollen

Examination should be made on fully opened flowers; tapping or shaking the flowering stem will release pollen, which, if present, can be observed on dark colored paper or card. The absence of pollen production is an indication of male sterility.

Key to growth stages

Flowering

400 First flower open on terminal raceme
410 Few flowers are open on terminal raceme
420 Full flowering; lower siliques are elongating
450 Lower siliques are starting to fill, less than 5% of flower buds are not yet open
470 Seeds in lower siliques are enlarging, all buds have opened

Chapter X. Technical Questionnaire

5.9 Flower: production of pollen
(23)

absent	Tweed	1 [ ]
present	Magres	9 [ ]

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