

TYPE OF EXPRESSION OF
CHARACTERISTICS
(QL, QN, PQ)

Types of Expression

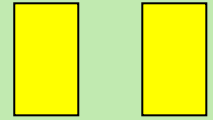
QL: QUALITATIVE

QN: QUANTITATIVE

PQ: PSEUDO-QUALITATIVE

7. Table of Characteristics/Tableau des caractères/Merkmalstabelle/Tabla de caracteres

| Char. No. | English | français | Deutsch | español | Example Varieties Exemples Beispielssorten Variedades ejemplo | Note/ Nota |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|---------------|
| 1. (*) (+) | Plant: growth habit | Plante : port | Pflanze: Wuchsform | Planta: porte | | |
| QN | upright | dressé | aufrecht | erecto | Inuppink | 1 |
| | semi-upright | semi dressé | halbaufrecht | semierecto | D0158-1 | 2 |
| | spreading | étalé | breitwüchsig | abierto | Sunnem 03 | 3 |
| | semi-trailing | semi-étalé | halbhängend | semirrastrero | Inupsaf | 4 |
| | trailing | coureux | hängend | rastrero | Organza | 5 |
| 2. (+) | Plant: height | Plante : hauteur | Pflanze: Höhe | Planta: altura | | |
| QN | short | basse | niedrig | baja | Yateye | 3 |
| | medium | moyenne | mittel | media | D0158-1 | 5 |
| | tall | haute | hoch | alta | Inuppink | 7 |



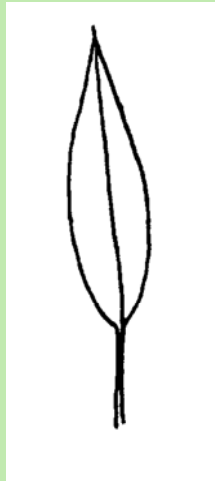
QUALITATIVE Characteristics

“Qualitative characteristics” are those that are **expressed in discontinuous states** (e.g. sex of plant: dioecious female (1), dioecious male (2), monoecious unisexual (3), monoecious hermaphrodite (4)).

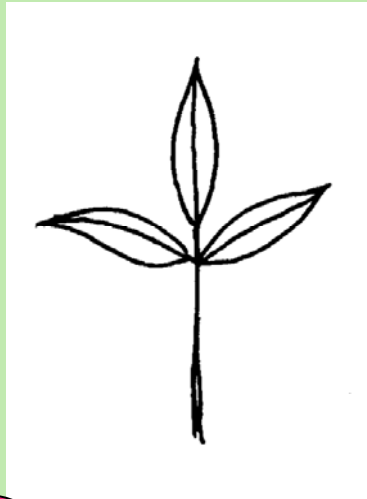
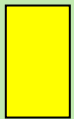
These states are self-explanatory and independently meaningful. All states are necessary to describe the full range of the characteristic, and every form of expression can be described by a single state. The order of states is not important. As a rule, the **characteristics are not influenced by environment.**

Qualitative characteristic

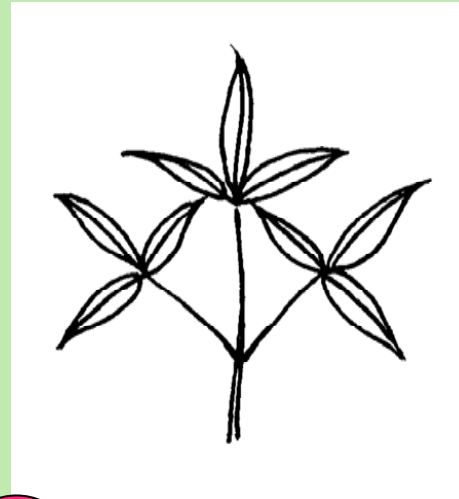
Clematis: Leaf: type



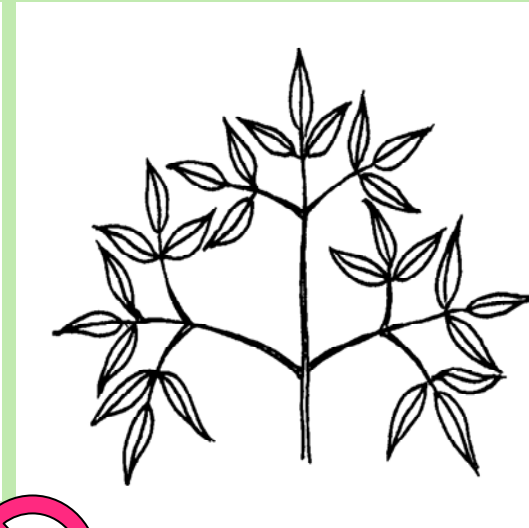
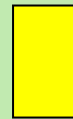
1
simple



2
ternate



3
biternate



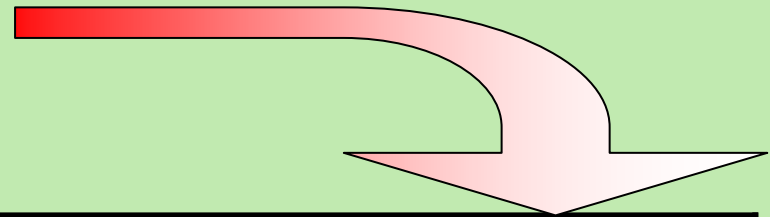
4
triternate



Qualitative (QL) characteristic?

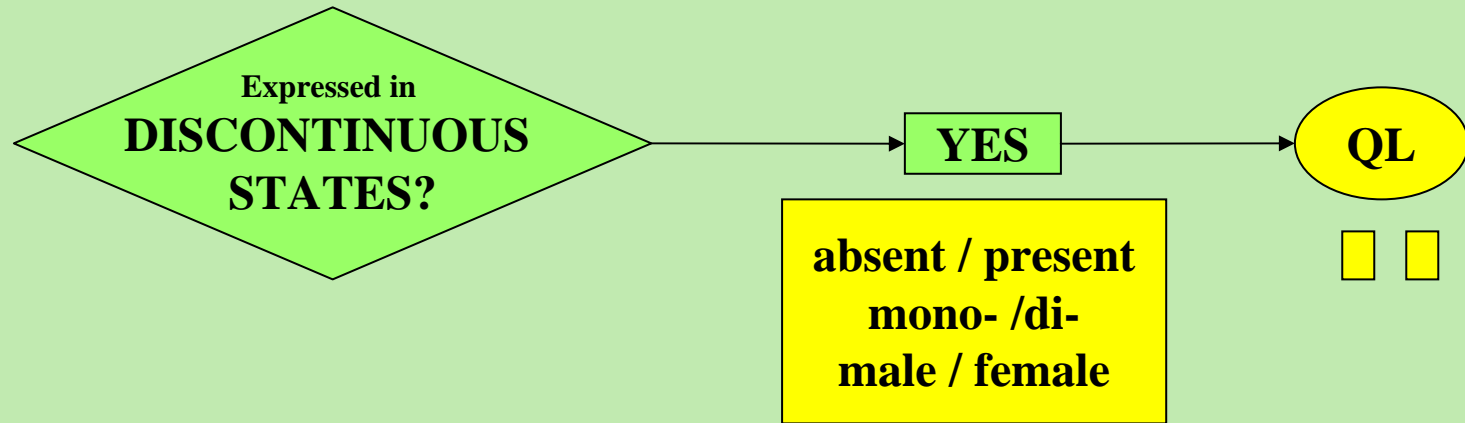
Anthocyanin coloration: QL (=absent / present)?

NO!



| | Variety A | Variety B | Variety C |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Environment A | absent | present | absent |
| Environment B | absent | present | present |

QL, QN or PQ?

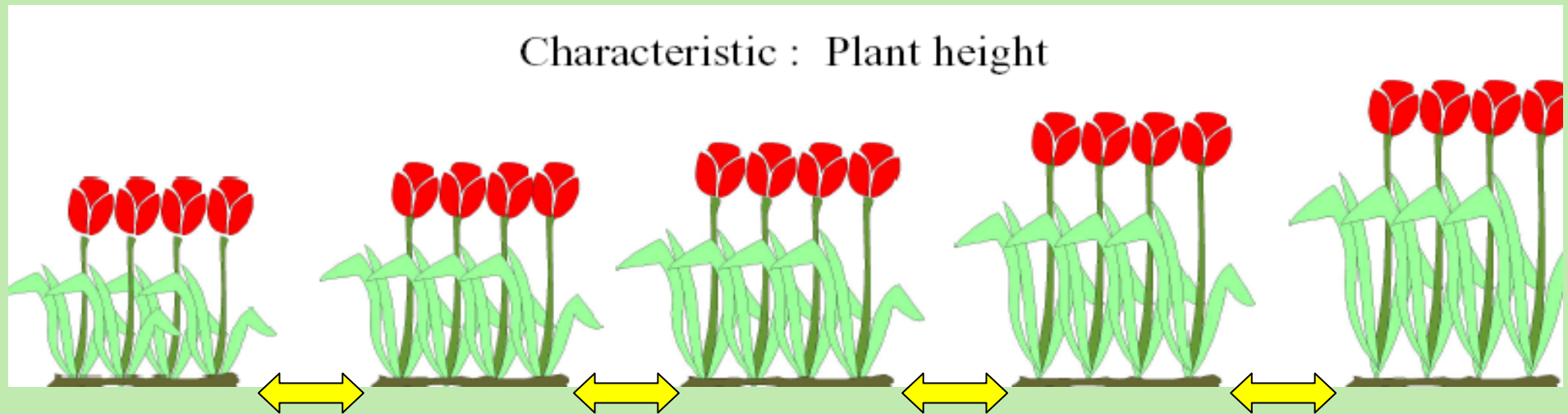


QUANTITATIVE Characteristics

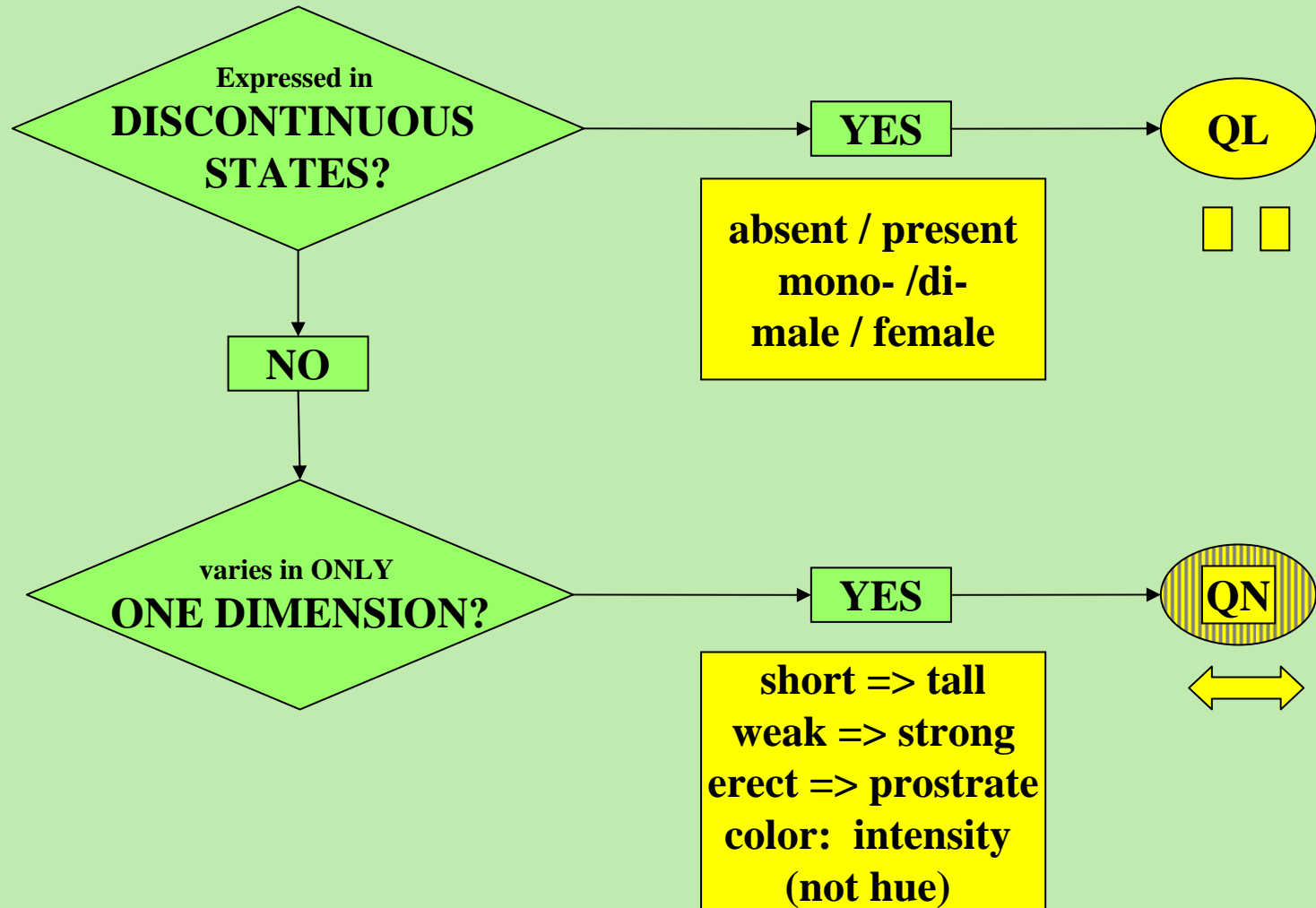


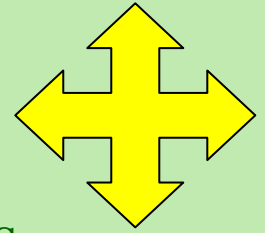
“Quantitative characteristics” are those where the expression covers the full range of variation from one extreme to the other. The **expression can be recorded on a one-dimensional, continuous or discrete, linear scale.** The range of expression is divided into a number of states for the purpose of description (e.g. length of stem: very short (1), short (3), medium (5), long (7), very long (9)). The division seeks to provide, as far as is practical, an even distribution across the scale. The Test Guidelines do not specify the difference needed for distinctness. The states of expression should, however, be meaningful for DUS assessment.

Quantitative Characteristic



QL, QN or PQ?

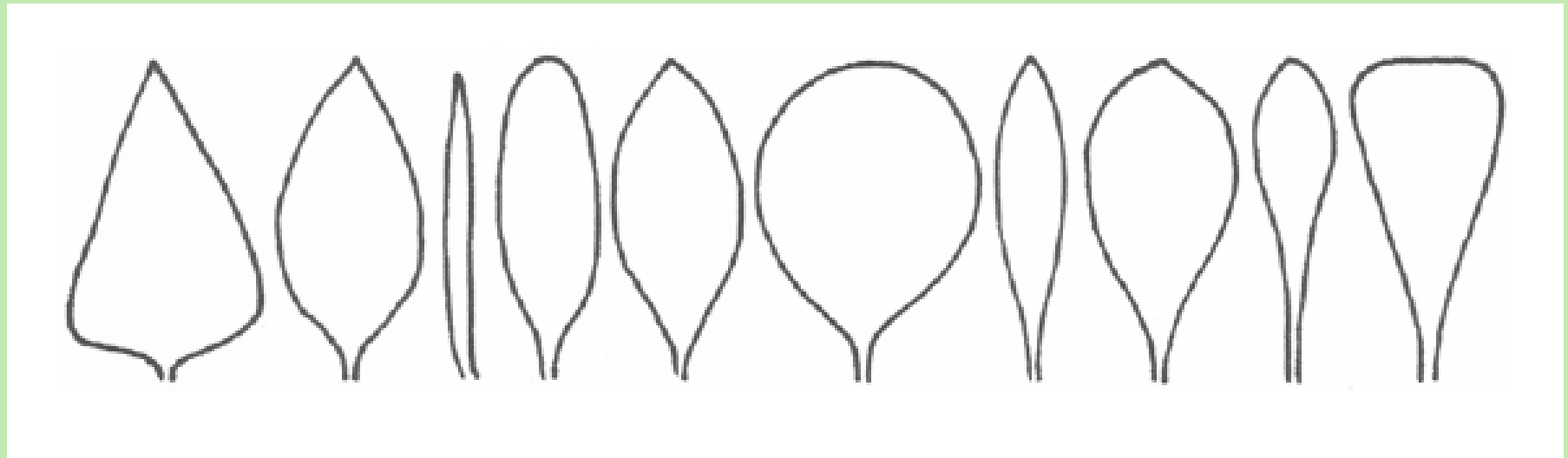




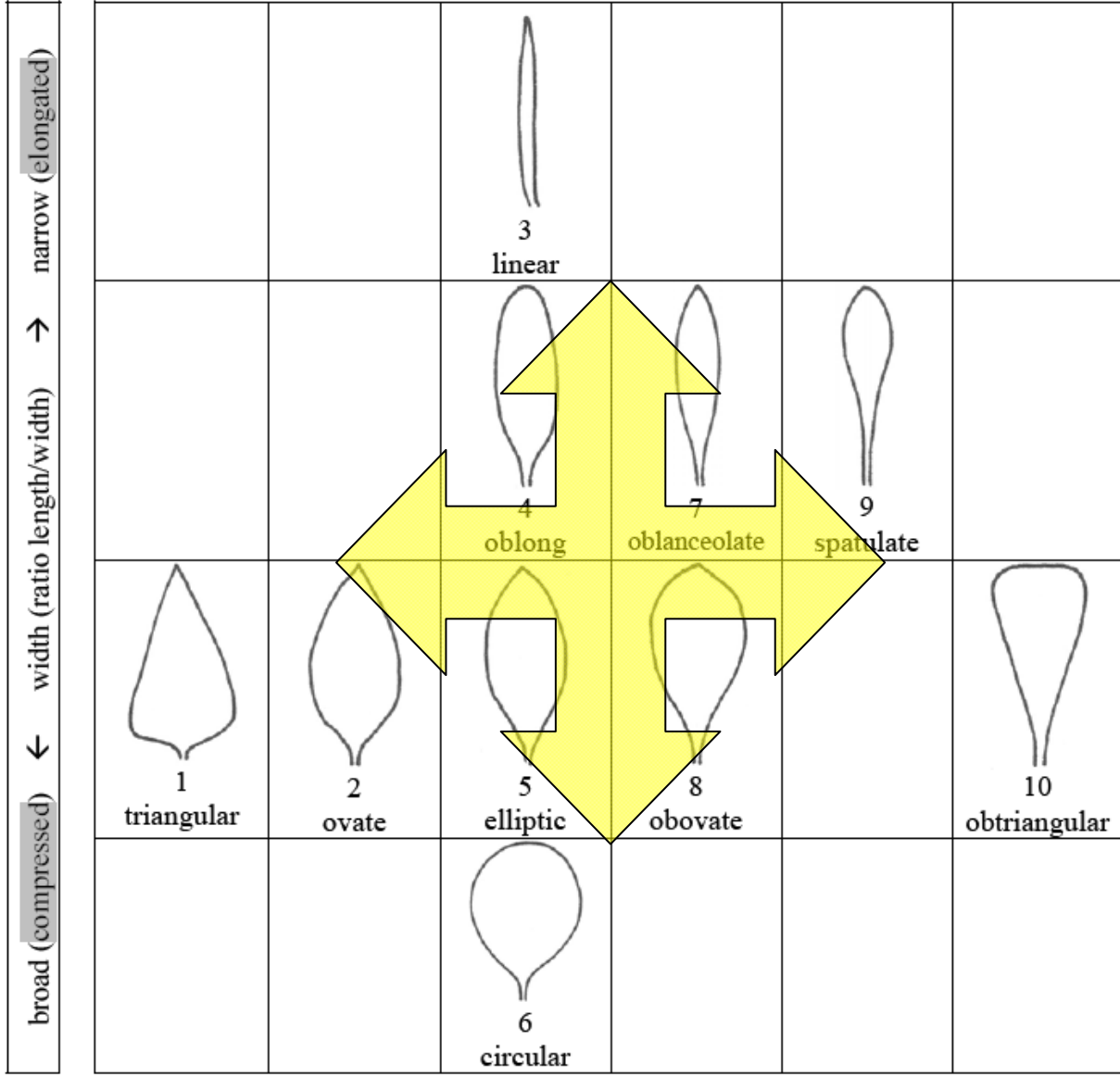
PSEUDO-QUALITATIVE Characteristics

In the case of “pseudo-qualitative characteristics,” the **range of expression is at least partly continuous, but varies in more than one dimension** (e.g. shape: ovate (1), elliptic (2), circular (3), obovate (4)) and cannot be adequately described by just defining two ends of a linear range. In a similar way to qualitative (discontinuous) characteristics – hence the term “pseudo-qualitative” – each individual state of expression needs to be identified to adequately describe the range of the characteristic.

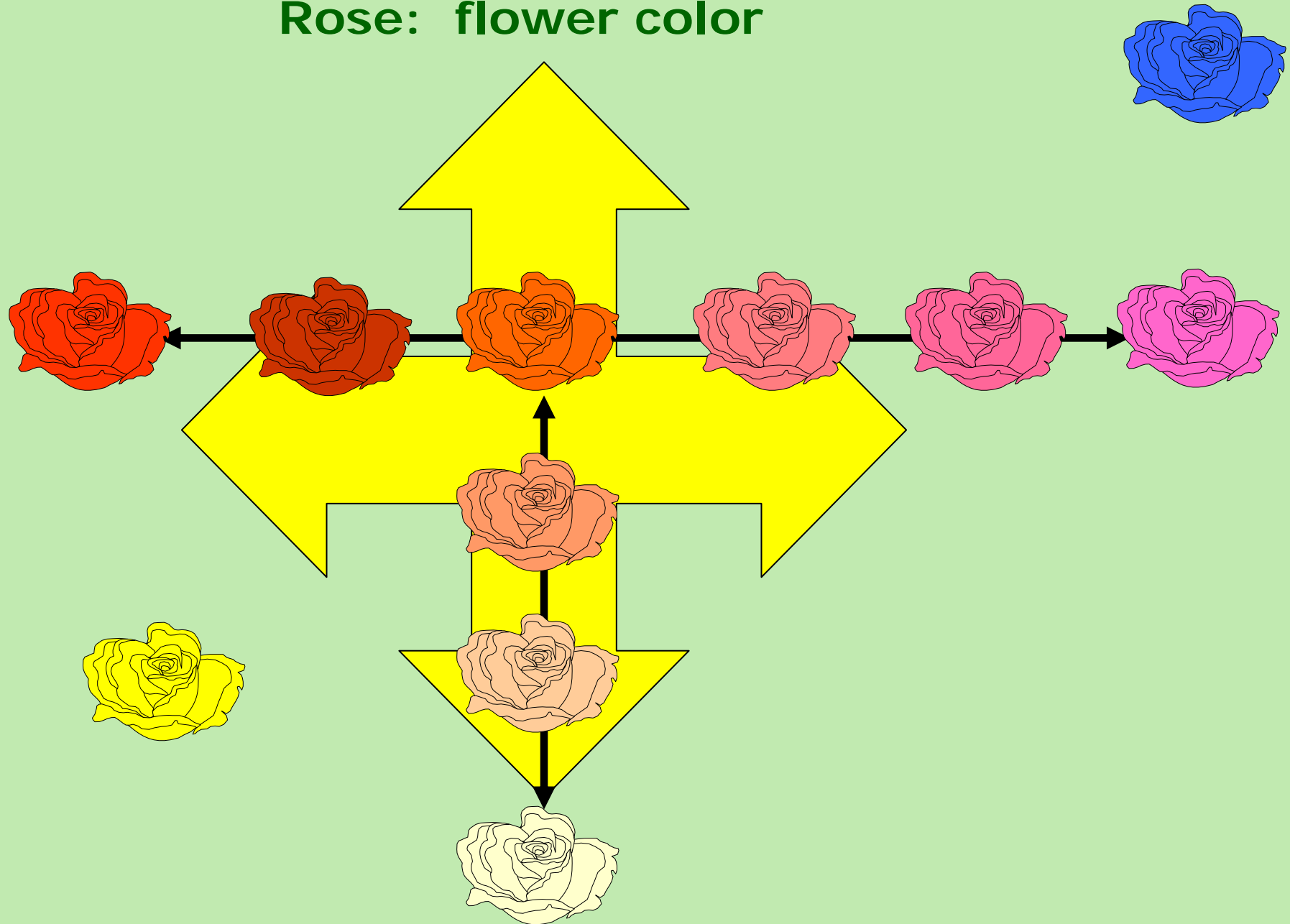
Example



| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| ← broadest part → | | |
| (below middle) | at middle | (above middle) |



Rose: flower color



QL, QN or PQ?

