

Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops**TWF/55/4****Fifty-Fifth Session****Original:** English**Virtual meeting, June 3 to 6, 2024****Date:** May 7, 2024

NUMBER OF GROWING CYCLES AND CONCLUDING EXAMINATION OF FRUIT CROPS*Document prepared by an expert from the European Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*


The annex to this document contains a copy of a presentation “Number of growing cycles and concluding examination of fruit crops”, to be made by an expert from the European Union, at the fifty-fifth session of the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF).

[Annex follows]




Number of growing cycles and concluding examination of fruit crops

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Number of growing cycles


- According to TGP 7

3.1 *Number of Growing Cycles*


The **minimum** duration of tests should normally be:

- { **ASW 2** (Chapter 3.1(.1)) – number of growing cycles }
- { **GN 8** (Chapter 3.1.2) – explanation of the growing cycle }
- { **ASW 3** (Chapter 3.1.2) – explanation of the growing cycle }

The testing of a variety may be concluded when the competent authority can determine with certainty the outcome of the test.




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Number of growing cycles

- Context
 - Difficulty for breeders to control material of their variety from unauthorized use during the application procedure
 - Turnover of varieties may be quicker in the future with the implementation of New Genomic Techniques
 - High costs of DUS testing for fruits



3




Number of growing cycles


- Context
 - Duration of DUS test discussed several times in the past, leading to the endorsement by the TC of the standard wording

The testing of a variety may be concluded when the competent authority can determine with certainty the outcome of the test.

See [TWF 46-25 rev](#) and [TWF 47-19](#)



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Number of growing cycles

- This wording materializes as follows in the apple test guideline

3.1 *Number of Growing Cycles*


3.1.1 The minimum duration of tests should normally be two independent growing cycles.

3.1.2 The two independent growing cycles may be observed from a single planting, examined in two separate growing cycles.


3.1.3 In particular, it is essential that the trees produce a satisfactory crop of fruit in each of the two growing cycles.

3.1.4 The growing cycle is considered to be the duration of a single growing season, beginning with the dormany period, followed by bud burst (flowering and/or vegetative), flowering and fruit harvest and concluding when the following dormant period starts.

3.1.6 The testing of a variety may be concluded when the competent authority can determine with certainty the outcome of the test.




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Number of growing cycles

- The current situation generates potential contradictions to the current practice
- Can a DUS test be concluded before two growing cycles with a satisfactory crop of fruits?

Yes if *the competent authority can determine with certainty the outcome of the test*



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Number of growing cycles


- The current situation generates potential contradictions to the current practice
 - Can a DUS test be concluded before two growing cycles with a satisfactory crop of fruits?

But

- ✓ This is below the minimum
- ✓ This is not normal



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Number of growing cycles

- Some wording may need to be clarified
 - What is exactly a *satisfactory crop of fruit* ?

Does it refer

- ✓ To the quality?
- ✓ To the quantity?



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Number of growing cycles

- CPVO project aiming at reducing the number of obligatory observation periods in the fruit sector

Investigate for pilot species (peach, strawberry, apple, grapevine, raspberry) the influence of the reduction of the number of observation periods issues on:

- the assessment of distinctness
- the assessment of uniformity
- the variety description



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Number of growing cycles

- ⇒ In the vast majority of cases, the second year of observation confirms the result of the first year in respect of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability
- ⇒ Consequences for the description
 - in the first satisfactory fruiting period, juvenile trees do not express some of the characteristics in the same way as in the second year
 - Affects the comparability of descriptions in databases




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Number of growing cycles

- In practice in the EU, DUS reports accepted for apple varieties after one satisfactory fruiting period, provided *the competent authority can determine with certainty the outcome of the test*
 - Case of varieties raised by hybridization
 - Some fruits can be observed during the second establishment period



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- Proposal to have the wording 3.1.1. and 3.1.6 in the same paragraph, following TGP 7



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Number of growing cycles

- Proposal to consider reducing the minimum number of observations with a satisfactory crop of fruits to one year

At the end of the growing cycle, the competent authority can determine whether or not a second growing cycle is required to confirm or add to the observations and data recorded in the first growing cycle.

See document [TWF_46_25_rev](#)



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Number of growing cycles

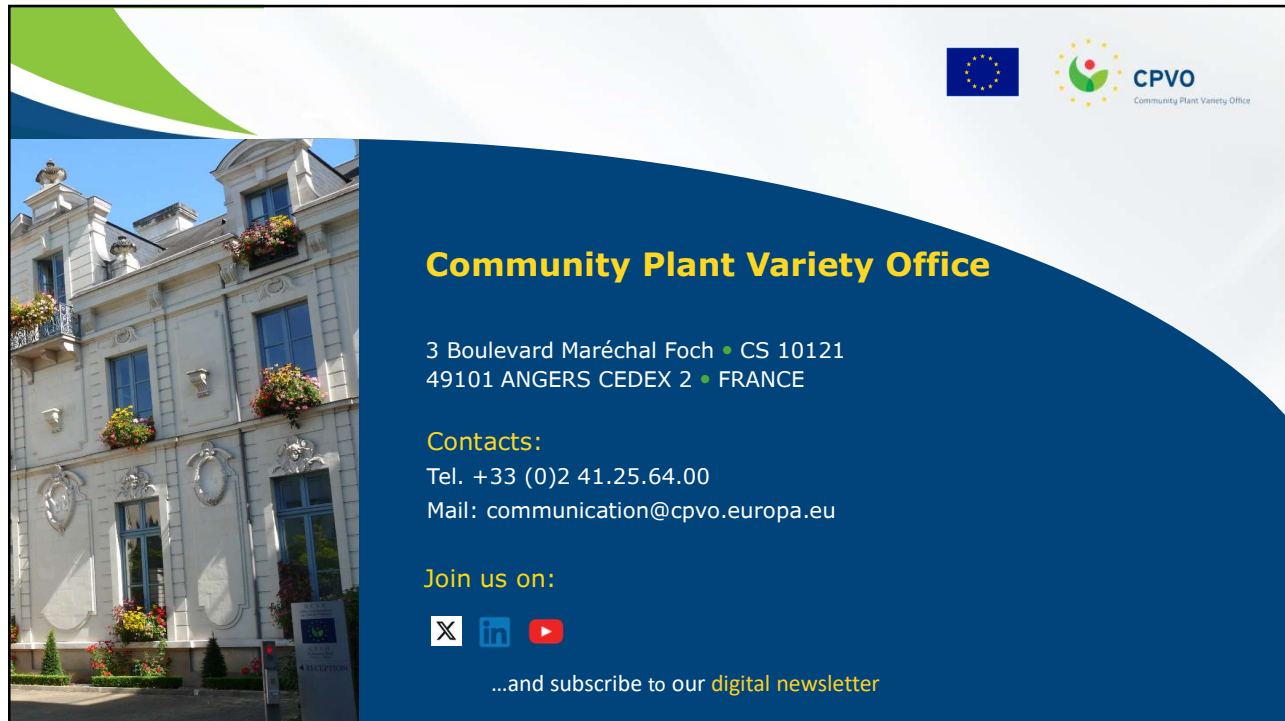
- Alternative proposal to reconsider the sentence (see [document 47_25_rev](#))

The minimum duration of tests should normally be two independent growing cycles

Would other wording be preferable, for example “standard duration” or “regular duration” or to delete the word “minimum” and leave only “normally”



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The graphic features a photograph of a grand, multi-story building with ornate architectural details and flower boxes on the windows. A large blue curved shape overlays the right side of the image, containing contact information. In the top right corner, there are logos for the European Union and the CPVO (Community Plant Variety Office).

Community Plant Variety Office

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The graphic has a light green background with a stylized illustration of a superhero woman with a green cape flying through the air. The text 'ideas powered for business SME fund' is in the top left. On the right, the text 'Protect your plant varieties' is above a green 'Get started' button. At the bottom, there are logos for the European Union, EUIPO (European Union Intellectual Property Office), and CPVO.

ideas powered for business SME fund

Protect your plant varieties

Get started

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EUIPO EUROPEAN UNION INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE

CPVO Community Plant Variety Office

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