

Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops

TWF/57/3

Fifty-Seventh Session
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COMMENTS ON GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION MATERIALS

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1. The purpose of this document is to report the comments on guidance and information materials made by the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV)¹, the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA)² and the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO)³ at their sessions in 2026.

REVISION OF DOCUMENT TGP/7 “DEVELOPMENT OF TEST GUIDELINES”: NUMBER OF GROWING CYCLES AND CONCLUDING EXAMINATION

2. The TWV, TWA and TWO considered the proposed amendments to document TGP/7 “Development of Test Guidelines”, on the universal standard wording for “number of growing cycles” and when the testing of a variety may be concluded, as set out in document TWP/10/1, paragraphs 12 to 14 (see documents TWV/60/8 “Report”, paragraphs 8 to 10, TWA/55/11 “Report”, paragraphs 7 to 9, and TWO/58/8 “Report”, paragraphs 5 to 8).

3. The TWV noted the comment from France on whether the term “generally” could lead to different interpretations on duration of tests to be conducted as two growing cycles. The TWV agreed that the wording for number of growing cycles should provide flexibility for authorities to conclude examination while maintaining harmonized procedures as much as possible.

4. The TWV and TWO agreed with the proposal to amend the additional standard wording of Test Guidelines, as set out in document TWP/10/1, to read as follows:

“(a) Single growing cycle:

“The minimum duration of tests should normally generally be a single growing cycle. The testing of a variety may be concluded when the competent authority can determine with certainty the outcome of the test”

“(b) Two independent growing cycles:

“The minimum duration of tests should normally generally be two independent growing cycles. The testing of a variety may be concluded when the competent authority can determine with certainty the outcome of the test”

5. The TWA agreed that the word “minimum” in relation to the duration of tests should be retained to ensure a clear understanding of the harmonized approach provided in Test Guidelines. The TWA agreed that the word “generally” in the same sentence would ensure sufficient flexibility for authorities to address particular cases.

¹ TWV, sixtieth session, held in Pacific Grove, United States of America, from May 18 to May 21, 2026

² TWA, fifty-fifth session, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from June 15 to 18, 2026

³ TWO, fifty-eighth session, held via electronic means, from July 6 to 9, 2026

6. The TWA agreed that the standard wording should be amended to read as follows:

“(a) Single growing cycle:

“The minimum duration of tests should ~~normally~~ generally be a single growing cycle. The testing of a variety may be concluded when the competent authority can determine with certainty the outcome of the test”

“(b) Two independent growing cycles:

“The minimum duration of tests should ~~normally~~ generally be two independent growing cycles. The testing of a variety may be concluded when the competent authority can determine with certainty the outcome of the test”

7. The TWO discussed whether clarification should be provided on situations when the general number of growing cycles would not be observed. The TWO agreed that the proposed wording provided sufficient flexibility for shorter or longer duration of trials and no further clarification would be required at this stage.

8. The TWO agreed with the proposal to amend the additional standard wording (ASW 3) on growing cycle for fruit species, as set out in document TWP/10/1, to read as follows:

“In particular, it is essential that the [trees] / [plants] produce a ~~satisfactory crop~~ sufficient quantity and quality of fruit for testing purposes and are representative of the variety in any ~~in each of the~~ two growing cycles.”

[End of document]