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DEFINING COLOR GROUPS FOR GROUPING OF VARIETIES AND ORGANIZING THE GROWING TRIAL

Document prepared by an expert from Germany

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GUIDANCE ON THE FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR CREATING COLOR GROUPS FOR GROUPING OF VARIETIES AND ORGANIZING THE GROWING TRIAL

1. At its forty-ninth session, held in 2016, the TWO considered document TWO/49/20 “Definition of color groups from RHS Colour Charts” and agreed to request an expert from Germany to draft guidance on the factors to be considered for creating color groups for grouping of varieties and organizing the growing trial (see document TWO/49/25 Rev. “Revised Report”, paragraph 62).

Introduction

2. Grouping characteristics are characteristics in which the documented states of expression, even where recorded at different locations, can be used to exclude varieties of common knowledge from the growing trial. Furthermore they can be used to organize the growing trial so that similar varieties are grouped together (see document TG/1/3 “General Introduction to the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability and the Development of Harmonized Descriptions of new Varieties of Plants”, Section 4.8) .

3. When a characteristic that is described by using the RHS Colour Chart is selected as a grouping characteristic, it is necessary to create color groups.

Factors to be considered for creating color groups

4. When using the color of a plant part for grouping of varieties, a very clear and large difference between the colors is required. However, the colour groups are also used in the Technical Questionnaire for applicants who have no RHS Colour Chart. Therefore the groups need to be small enough so that applicants are able to give an adequate state of expression for the characteristic.

5. The following factors have to be considered when creating color groups for grouping:

(a) range of variation of the color of the plant part within the species
(b) necessary difference between colors for varieties to be considered clearly distinct
(c) possible influence of the environment on the color of the plant part.

6. Depending on the species and the plant part observed the color groups for grouping can be different. Examples for color groups in grouping characteristics of different Test Guidelines are listed in the following table.

Test Guideline	**Campanula** (TG/305/1)	**Hosta** (TG/299/1)	**Cordyline** (TG/317/1)	**Osteospermum** (TG/175/5)
Characteristic	Corolla: main color of inner side	Leaf blade: color covering the largest surface area	Leaf: secondary color	Ray floret: main color of middle part
Color groups for grouping	white pink purple red purple blue	white light yellow medium yellow dark yellow light green medium green dark green blue green	white yellow green red purple brown blackish	white yellow orange pink red purple violet

7. It should be emphasized that not necessarily all groups are clearly distinct from each other when information is used that does not come from the same source (same location, same observer). E.g. in Cordyline for the characteristic "Leaf: secondary color" it might not be possible to clearly distinguish between "brown" and "blackish" when looking at photos on the internet or in a plant catalogue.

8. The TWO is invited to consider whether to propose the revision of document TGP/14 "Glossary of terms used in UPOV documents" for the inclusion of guidance on the factors to be considered for creating color groups for grouping of varieties and organizing the growing trial, as set out in paragraphs 2 to 7 of this document.

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