

**Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees** TWO/51/11

**Fifty-First Session**  
**Christchurch, New Zealand, February 18 to 22, 2019**

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## NUMBER OF GROWING CYCLES

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union*

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1. The purpose of this document is to report on discussions concerning the number of growing cycles and the outcome at the fifty-fourth session of the Technical Committee (TC).

### Developments in 2016

2. The TC, at its fifty-second session, held in Geneva from March 14 to 16, 2016, considered the discussion on the number of growing cycles in DUS examination and agreed to invite members of the Union to simulate the impact of using different numbers of growing cycles on DUS decisions using actual data and to report on their results at the TWP sessions in 2016 and at the fifty-third session of the TC (see document TC/52/29 Rev. "Revised Report", paragraph 204).

### Developments in 2017

#### *Technical Committee*

3. The TC, at its fifty-third session, held in Geneva from April 3 to 7, 2017, considered document TC/53/21 "Number of growing cycles" (see document TC/53/31 "Report", paragraphs 183 to 187).

4. The TC considered the presentations made by experts at the TWP sessions in 2016, simulating the impact of using different numbers of growing cycles on DUS decisions using actual data, as set out in the Annexes to document TC/53/21.

5. The TC noted the offers by members of the Union to make presentations to the TWPs, at their sessions in 2017, on the impact of using different numbers of growing cycles on DUS decisions using actual data and agreed to invite the TWPs to report to the TC, at its session in 2018.

6. The TC noted the expression of interest by Authorities to reduce the costs associated with DUS examination and agreed that the number of growing cycles for DUS examination should be the minimum necessary for a robust DUS decision and the establishment of a reliable variety description.

7. The TC agreed that it was not appropriate to generalize that ornamental varieties should be examined in a single growing trial while other types of crops should be examined in two growing cycles and agreed that the typical number of growing cycles should be established on a crop-by-crop basis.

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8. The Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO), at its fiftieth session, held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, from September 11 to 15, 2017, considered document TWP/1/21 "Number of growing cycles" (see document TWO/50/14 "Report", paragraphs 88 to 91 and 146).

9. The TWO noted the presentations made to the TWPs at their sessions in 2016, simulating the impact of using different numbers of growing cycles on DUS decisions using actual data, as set out in the Annexes to document TWP/1/21.

10. The TWO noted that the TC had agreed that the number of growing cycles for DUS examination should be the minimum necessary for a robust DUS decision and the establishment of a reliable variety description.

11. The TWO noted that the TC had agreed that it was not appropriate to generalize that ornamental varieties should be examined in a single growing trial while other types of crops should be examined in two growing cycles. It noted further that the TC had agreed that the typical number of growing cycles should be established on a crop-by-crop basis.

12. The TWO agreed to discuss “Number of growing cycles in DUS examination” at its fifty-first session, on the basis of a document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and documents presented to the Office of the Union. No documents on this subject were received by the Office of the Union.

#### Developments in 2018

13. The TC, at its fifty-fourth session, held in Geneva on October 29 and 30, 2018, considered document TC/54/27 “Number of growing cycles” and noted the discussions by the TWPs, at their sessions in 2017 and 2018, on the impact of using different numbers of growing cycles on DUS decisions using actual data (see document TC/54/31 “Report”, paragraph 328).

14. The TC has not included an item on the agenda on this topic for 2019.

*15. The TWO is invited to note that no documents on “Number of growing cycles in DUS examination” were proposed for discussion at the fifty-first session of the TWO and that the matter is not included in the agenda of the TC at its fifty-fifth session.*

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