

Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees TWO/56/8

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COMMENTS ON GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION MATERIALS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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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), at its fifty-eighth session¹.

2. The structure of this document is as follows:

(A)	EXPLANATORY NOTES	2
	UPOV/EXN/DEN “Explanatory Notes on Variety Denominations under the UPOV Convention” (Revision)	2
	New variety denomination classes for Prunus and situations when a denomination should be compared with other classes within a genus.....	2
(B)	TGP DOCUMENTS	2
	TGP/5: Section 6 “UPOV Report on Technical Examination and UPOV Variety Description” (Revision)	2
	Subsection “UPOV Variety Description”, item 16 “Similar varieties and differences from these varieties”	2
	Subsection “UPOV Variety Description”, item 17 “Additional information”	2
	TGP/7 “Development of Test Guidelines” (Revision)	3
	Additional Standard Wording (ASW) 3 “Explanation of the growing cycle”	3
	Additional Standard Wording (ASW) 7(b) “Number of plants / parts of plants to be examined”	3
	Guidance Note (GN) 28 “Example Varieties” – Example varieties for asterisked quantitative characteristics when illustrations are provided.....	3
	TGP/12: Guidance on Certain Physiological Characteristics	3
(C)	ACCESS TO PLANT MATERIAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF MANAGEMENT OF VARIETY COLLECTIONS AND DUS EXAMINATION	4

3. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

- TC: Technical Committee
- TC-EDC: Enlarged Editorial Committee
- TWA: Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
- TWC: Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs
- TWF: Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
- TWM: Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques
- TWO: Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
- TWV: Technical Working Party for Vegetables
- TWPs: Technical Working Parties

¹ TWV, fifty-eighth session, held via virtual means from April 22 to 25, 2024

4. The TWV considered document TWP/8/1 (see document TWV/58/11 "Report", paragraphs 5 to 27).

(A) EXPLANATORY NOTES

UPOV/EXN/DEN "Explanatory Notes on Variety Denominations under the UPOV Convention" (Revision)

New variety denomination classes for Prunus and situations when a denomination should be compared with other classes within a genus

5. The TWV considered situations when a denomination should be compared with denominations in other classes within a genus or the entire genus, as set out in document TWP/8/1, paragraph 11.

6. The TWV agreed that the situation described for *Prunus* would be applicable to denominations in other classes within a genus, i.e. denominations of interspecific hybrids should be different from those in the classes of all parent species; and denominations for varieties from one of the "Classes within a genus" should be different from denominations of interspecific hybrids with one parent in that class.

(B) TGP DOCUMENTS

TGP/5: Section 6 "UPOV Report on Technical Examination and UPOV Variety Description" (Revision)

Subsection "UPOV Variety Description", item 16 "Similar varieties and differences from these varieties"

7. The TWV considered the additional explanations proposed for inclusion under Item 16 "Similar varieties and differences from these varieties" in the "UPOV Variety Description", as set out in document TWP/8/1, paragraph 18.

8. The TWV agreed that information on similar varieties and differences from the candidate variety were important to facilitate cooperation and the exchange of DUS test reports.

9. The TWV agreed that it would not be practical to report in a variety description all the varieties in a collection or a list of varieties tested along with a candidate variety.

10. The TWV agreed that variety descriptions should always provide information on most similar varieties, even if it was a parent or sibling of the candidate. The TWV agreed that the lack of information in item 16 led to uncertainty whether the variety description had been duly filled. The TWV agreed that a standard wording should be developed for such situations.

Subsection "UPOV Variety Description", item 17 "Additional information"

11. The TWV agreed with the proposal for further explanations under item 17 "Additional Information" in the "UPOV Variety Description", as set out in document TWP/8/1, paragraph 21, and reproduced as follows:

17. Additional Information

- (a) Additional Data (e.g. COYU or COYD results, measured data supporting certain characteristics, scales for measured characters for example varieties)
- (b) Photograph (if appropriate)
- (c) RHS Colour Chart version used (if appropriate)
- (d) Examples varieties used in testing
- (e) Remarks

12. The TWV agreed that the elements provided under item 17 "Additional information" were examples to be considered on a case-by-case basis, as appropriate, according to crop type and variety described.

TGP/7 “Development of Test Guidelines” (Revision)*Additional Standard Wording (ASW) 3 “Explanation of the growing cycle”*

13. The TWV considered the proposal to amend the standard wording of growing cycle for “fruit species with clearly defined dormant period” in document TGP/7, ASW 3(a), as set out in document TWP/8/1, paragraph 24.

14. The TWV agreed with the proposal while noting it was not common situation in vegetables.

Additional Standard Wording (ASW) 7(b) “Number of plants / parts of plants to be examined”

15. The TWV considered the proposal to amend document TGP/7, ASW 7(b), on the number of parts to be examined from single plants, as set out in document TWP/8/1, paragraph 28.

16. The TWV agreed that the number of parts to be taken from each plant was particularly relevant for assessments on small sample sizes. The TWV agreed that more information would be required on any consequences for international harmonization of not having a precise value provided in the Test Guidelines.

Guidance Note (GN) 28 “Example Varieties” – Example varieties for asterisked quantitative characteristics when illustrations are provided

17. The TWV considered document TWV/58/10, presented by an expert from Germany.

18. The TWV agreed that Test Guidelines should have as much information as possible, including both example varieties and illustrations. The TWV agreed that illustrations provided additional information and could be more informative than example varieties, in some cases.

19. The TWV agreed that illustrations were particularly useful when the example varieties in Test Guidelines were not available or not suitable for cultivation in certain growing conditions. The TWV agreed with the proposal to provide further guidance on the situations where illustrations would complement or could replace example varieties.

20. The TWV considered paragraphs 2.1 to 2.3 of the proposal and agreed to invite the drafter from Germany to provide further explanation on the criteria for decision or examples when illustrations could replace example varieties.

TGP/12: Guidance on Certain Physiological Characteristics

21. The TWV agreed with the proposal to amend document TGP/12 “Guidance on Certain Physiological Characteristics” to include a table of equivalence of states of expression in Test Guidelines with terminology used in the vegetable seed sector, as set out in document TWP/8/1, paragraph 34, and reproduced as follows:

Equivalence of states of expression in UPOV Test Guidelines with the terminology used in the vegetable seed sector		
	State of expression in UPOV Test Guidelines	Terminology used in the vegetable seed sector ²
UPOV notes	Resistance to (disease resistance name) is:	Reaction of a plant variety to a specific pest is:
1	absent or low	Susceptibility (S)
2	medium	Intermediate Resistance (IR)
3	high	High Resistance (HR)

22. The TWV agreed with the proposal to add an explanation in document TGP/12 that the table could be used as a reference in case of equivalence between the states of expression according to the method described in the explanation of the characteristic in Section 8.2 of the Test Guidelines.

² source: <https://worldseed.org/>

(C) ACCESS TO PLANT MATERIAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF MANAGEMENT OF VARIETY COLLECTIONS AND DUS EXAMINATION

23. The TWV considered the proposed elements for inclusion in requests for the submission of plant material of candidate varieties and varieties of common knowledge for DUS examination, as set out in document TWP/8/1, paragraph 41.

24. The TWV noted the experiences reported with a model request for the submission of plant material from plant breeders based on existing regulations in the European Union and France.

25. The TWV agreed that information on the reasons for the request and intended use of the plant material could facilitate its provision by breeders. The TWV agreed to invite further information on experiences with requests for the submission of plant material to be considered in future meetings.

26. The TWV noted the reports from Germany and Japan on the existence of particular requirements from domestic regulations and agreed that it would not be appropriate to develop guidance on the matter at this stage.

[End of document]