

Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees

TWO/58/7

Fifty-Eighth 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 and the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA)², at their sessions in 2026.

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

2. The TWV and TWA considered the proposed amendments to document TGP/7 “Development of Test Guidelines”, to amend 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, and TWA/55/11 “Report”, paragraphs 7 to 9).

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 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.

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

“(a) Single growing cycle:

¹ TWV, sixtieth session, held in Pacific Grove, California, 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

"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"

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