



TWV/34/4

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COMMENTS ON PROPOSALS MADE BY EXPERTS FROM GERMANY ON THE
WORKING PAPER ON THE TEST GUIDELINES FOR TURNIP (TWV/33/9)

Document prepared by experts from the United Kingdom

Characteristic 5

The definition of lobed leaves given in the Radish guideline (TG/63/6) should be used for Turnip.

I think the definition of lobing in TG/63/6 is too simplistic and think it would not work in Turnip where leaves are not usually cut to the midrib. If accepted, this proposal could result in a 'lobed leafed type' with no lobes.

What is needed is the division of varieties into one of two leaf types. These types are not really based on one characteristic, but are the expression of a syndrome defined by several characteristics. This is why I originally proposed that the character should be Leaf: type.

Characteristics 12, 13 and 14

Characteristics to be treated as additional.

I could accept this, but the characteristics are important for discrimination of fodder varieties.

Characteristic 18: Root: thick cork layer around skin

Retention of the original text in TG/37/7.

The TWV agreed to have the characteristic defined as: 'Root: thick cork layer around skin'. The reason for adding the word 'thick' was to make it clear that the presence of this characteristic did not include varieties which develop a thin cork layer.

I propose to keep the text agreed at TWV 33.

Characteristic 25: Root: shape

Add states for cylindrical, conical and pear-shaped roots, remove states for oblate and long tankard and remove the base line from the drawing

I would agree that both 'conical' and 'cylindrical' root shapes exist in Turnip. However, conical and cylindrical are 3-dimensional shapes, whereas the rest of the states are 2-dimensional shapes.

I propose that **oblong** and **obtriangular** are used instead of 'cylindrical' and 'conical'.

'Oblate' and 'long tankard' root shapes should be retained as distinct shapes. 'Oblate' is an intermediate between very flat and globe roots and 'long tankard' has a very different length to width ratio from the 'tankard' shape.

I also propose that the states 'tankard' (6) and 'long tankard' (7) are renamed 'broad oblong' (6) and 'narrow oblong' (7).

The question of whether pear-shaped roots exist, is more difficult. All oblong roots vary, with some varieties being slightly broader at the base than at the top, and vice versa. There are also some varieties that have roots which are broad at the top and base, but narrower in the middle.

For the purposes of describing root shape, I think this variation is not significant. As the characteristic is used for grouping, it would not be useful to define such variation within oblong roots.

I have removed the base line from the drawing and have re-aligned the shapes.

Characteristic 28: Root: position of widest point

Retain the original text as given in TG/37/7.

'High, medium and low' is less clear than 'above, at and below middle' agreed at TWV33. I propose the retention of the TWV 33 version and delete the drawing which is unnecessary.

Characteristic 31: Root: shape of base

Add 'obtuse' to shapes and alter the notes to represent a continuous 1-9 scale.

The lack of 'obtuse' is an omission. I propose that this state is added to the table of characteristics and to the drawing. There is no need to include both 'strongly indented' and 'indented' in the scale; the example variety for state 1 is Milan White Forcing.

Either we have a continuous characteristic

strongly indented (1), truncate (3), rounded (5), obtuse (7), and pointed (9) with the assumption that there is a continuum between all states,

or we have a multi-state discontinuous characteristic

indented (1), truncate (2), rounded (3), obtuse (4) and pointed (5).

I would prefer the continuous scale, as the variation in some varieties would make it difficult to define one state.

Characteristics 33-42: Regenerative characteristics

Characteristics to be treated as additional.

This would be acceptable, but such characteristics have, in the past, been essential to discriminate some fodder varieties.

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