

Technical Working Party for Vegetables

Sixtieth Session

Pacific Grove, United States of America, May 18 to 21, 2026

TWP/10/2

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Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques

Fourth Session

Cambridge, United Kingdom, June 2 to 5, 2026

Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops

Fifty-Fifth Session

Seoul, Republic of Korea, June 15 to 18, 2026

Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees

Fifty-Eighth Session

Virtual meeting, July 6 to 9, 2026

Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops

Fifty-Seventh Session

Leipzig, Germany, September 7 to 10, 2026

NOTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND STATES OF EXPRESSION

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to report the additional characteristics and states of expression notified to the Office of the Union since the last session of the Technical Working Parties (TWPs).

Function of additional characteristics

2. Additional characteristics are characteristics not included the UPOV Test Guidelines which have been used to establish distinctness, uniformity and stability (DUS) in at least one member of the Union. They should satisfy the criteria for use in DUS, according to UPOV guidance.

3. To facilitate harmonization in the development and use of new characteristics and to provide opportunity for expert review, these characteristics should be submitted to UPOV and considered for inclusion in future Test Guidelines.

Invitation to notify and procedure

4. UPOV members are invited to notify additional characteristics and states of expression to the Office of the Union using the form provided in document TGP/5 Section 10. These characteristics will be presented to the relevant TWPs at the earliest opportunity with information on the extent of their use.

5. The characteristics notified will be considered for posting on the UPOV website, and/or the TWP may initiate a revision or a partial revision of the Test Guidelines concerned.

Notifications received

6. Since the last session of the TWPs until the date of publishing this document, the Office of the Union received the notification of additional characteristics for Red fescue (document TG/67/5); Ryegrass (document TG/4/8); and Wheat (document TG/3/12 Rev.). These characteristics are presented in the Annex to this document for consideration by the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA).

7. Further characteristics notified to the Office of the Union will be presented to the relevant TWPs at the earliest opportunity.

8. The structure of this document is as follows:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	1
BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR CHARACTERISTICS BEFORE USED FOR DUS TESTING	2
PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND STATES OF EXPRESSION.....	3
MATTERS FOR INFORMATION	3
Developments in 2025.....	3
<i>Survey proposal: barriers to taking over test reports: additional characteristics not included in</i>	
<i>Test Guidelines</i>	3
<i>Developments at the Technical Committee</i>	4
Additional characteristics and states of expression notified in 2025	4
Experiences with new types and species	5
<i>Ornamental Apple (Malus Mill.)</i>	5
<i>Maple (Acer L.)</i>	5
<i>Oil Pumpkin (Cucurbita pepo var. styriaca)</i>	5
<i>Elephant Grass (Cenchrus purpureus)</i>	5
ANNEX Notification of additional characteristics for Red Fescue (TG/67/5); Ryegrass (TG/4/8); and Wheat (TG/3/12 Rev.).	

9. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

TC:	Technical Committee
TC-EDC:	Enlarged Editorial Committee
TWA:	Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
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
TWPs:	Technical Working Parties
TWV:	Technical Working Party for Vegetables

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR CHARACTERISTICS BEFORE USED FOR DUS TESTING

10. 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” (“General Introduction”) states that:

“4.2.1 The basic requirements that a characteristic should fulfill before it is used for DUS testing or producing a variety description are that its expression:

“(a) results from a given genotype or combination of genotypes; (this requirement is specified in Article 1(vi) of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention but is a basic requirement in all cases);

“(b) is sufficiently consistent and repeatable in a particular environment;

“(c) exhibits sufficient variation between varieties to be able to establish distinctness;

“(d) is capable of precise definition and recognition; (this requirement is specified in Article 6 of the 1961/1972 and 1978 Acts of the UPOV Convention, but is a basic requirement in all cases);

“(e) allows uniformity requirements to be fulfilled;

“(f) allows stability requirements to be fulfilled, meaning that it produces consistent and repeatable results after repeated propagation or, where appropriate, at the end of each cycle of propagation.”

PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND STATES OF EXPRESSION

11. The Office of the Union received the notification of the following additional characteristics, which are presented in the Annex to this document:

- (a) Test Guidelines for Red fescue, Sheep's fescue, Hair fescue, Reliant hard fescue, Shade fescue, Pseudovina (document TG/67/5)
 - Red fescue (*Festuca rubra* L.): Plant: natural height when plants are fully extended
- (b) Test Guidelines for Ryegrass (document TG/4/8)
 - *Lolium multiflorum* L.: Plant: natural height when plants are fully extended
 - *Lolium perenne* L.: Plant: growth habit in summer of year of sowing
- (c) Test Guidelines for Wheat (document TG/3/12 Rev.)
 - Production of pollen (male sterility)

12. The TWA is invited to consider whether the additional characteristics notified should be posted on the "[Additional Characteristics](#)" page of the UPOV website and/or whether to initiate a partial revision of the Test Guidelines.

13. *The TWA is invited to:*

(a) consider the additional characteristics notified, as set out in the Annex to this document;

(b) consider whether the additional characteristics should be posted on the Additional Characteristics page of the UPOV website; and

(c) consider whether to initiate a partial revision of the Test Guidelines for including the additional characteristic notified.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Developments in 2025

Survey proposal: barriers to taking over test reports: additional characteristics not included in Test Guidelines

14. At its session in 2025, the TWV¹ received a presentation "Revision of the disease resistance characteristics in the EU", from an expert from the European Union. A copy of the presentation is provided in document [TWV/59/10](#).

15. The TWV noted the invitation from the European Union for UPOV members to join the regional working groups established to discuss disease resistance characteristics in French Bean, Cucumber, Melon, Pepper, Tomato and Tomato Rootstocks. The TWV noted that interested experts should contact the Community Plant Variety Office of the European Union (CPVO) for further information.

16. The TWV noted the comments made by the representative of the International Seed Federation (ISF) that characteristics used at national or regional level and not included in UPOV Test Guidelines ("additional characteristics") could constitute a barrier to taking over test reports, although no such cases had been reported.

17. The TWV noted the report from Germany that additional characteristics not included in Test Guidelines were considered when deciding to takeover test reports on a case-by-case basis using similar criteria for all characteristics, including disease resistances.

¹ TWV, fifty-ninth session, see document TWV/59/19 "Report", paragraphs 16 to 21

18. The TWV agreed to propose a survey among UPOV members on whether additional characteristics not included in UPOV Test Guidelines could constitute a barrier to takeover test reports, for instance disease resistance characteristics, in particular when they provided the basis for distinctness from the most similar variety.

19. The TWV agreed that the survey should provide the context of discussions, including that disease resistance characteristics in UPOV Test Guidelines were not being assessed by all UPOV members. The TWV agreed that the survey should include questions, such as:

- Whether UPOV members would take-over test reports in case distinctness had been established based on an additional characteristic not included in the UPOV Test Guidelines;
- Whether there was a difference on decisions to take-over test reports based on whether the additional characteristic was a disease resistance characteristic.

Developments at the Technical Committee

20. In October 2025, the TC² considered a proposal from the TWV for a survey among UPOV members on whether additional characteristics not included in Test Guidelines could constitute a barrier to taking over test reports, as set out in document TC/61/3, paragraphs 11 and 12.

21. The TC recalled that there was no obligation in the UPOV Convention for UPOV members to take over test reports and agreed that cooperation was important to avoid the need to repeat DUS examination of the same variety in each UPOV member.

22. The TC noted that there were different factors considered by UPOV members that would influence decisions to take over test reports according to the species and characteristics considered. The TC agreed that such variation would render unclear the results and agreed not to pursue the survey proposal.

23. The TC acknowledged the importance of disease resistances for plant breeding and recalled the flexibility for authorities in UPOV guidance when converting UPOV Test Guidelines into national test guidelines.

24. The TC recalled the procedure in document [TGP/5 Section 10](#) "Notification of Additional Characteristics and States of Expression", as follows:

- proposals for additional characteristics and states of expression should be notified to the Office of the Union using the template provided in document TGP/5 Section 10
- the proposals should provide information on the extent of use of the characteristic / state of expression
- the proposals received would be presented to the relevant Technical Working Party(ies) (TWP(s)) at the earliest opportunity

Additional characteristics and states of expression notified in 2025

25. The following additional characteristics and states of expression notified in 2025 were considered by the TWV and TWA at their sessions:

- (a) Test Guidelines for Pea (document TG/7/10):
 - Resistance to Downy Mildew (Pv)
- (b) Test Guidelines for Barley (document TG/19/11)
 - Production of pollen (male sterility)
- (c) Test Guidelines for Oilseed Rape (document TG/36/7)
 - Cotyledon: length from lamina base to widest point (lbtwp)
 - Cotyledon: lbtwp/width ratio
 - Herbicide Tolerance: Imazamox

² Technical Committee, Sixty-First session, held in Geneva on October 20 and 21, 2025. See document TC/61/8 "Report", paragraphs 12 to 17

26. Following the proposals from the TWV and TWA, the TC agreed to posting the following additional characteristics on the "[Additional Characteristics](#)" page of the UPOV website:

- (a) Test Guidelines for Barley (document TG/19/11)
 - Production of pollen (male sterility)
- (b) Test Guidelines for Oilseed Rape (document TG/36/7)
 - Cotyledon: length from lamina base to widest point (lbtwp)
 - Cotyledon: lbtwp/width ratio
 - Herbicide Tolerance: Imazamox

Experiences with new types and species

27. At their sessions in 2025, the TWO, TWV and TWA received reports on experiences with new types and species of the following crops:

Ornamental Apple (Malus Mill.)

28. The TWO received a presentation on "Revision of TG/192" [Ornamental Apple] from an expert from China, as provided in document [TWO/57/6, Annex I](#).

Maple (Acer L.)

29. The TWO received a presentation on "Proposals for new Test guidelines: Acer L." from an expert from China, as provided in document [TWO/57/6, Annex II](#).

Oil Pumpkin (Cucurbita pepo var. styriaca)

30. The TWV received a presentation on "Oil Pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo* var. *styriaca*) within TG/119/4 Rev. (*Cucurbita pepo* L.) - Proposals by Austria and exchange of views concerning new and adopted characteristics", as provided in document [TWV/59/2](#).

31. The TWV noted the invitation from Austria for collaboration on the development of characteristics for Oil Pumpkin and the revision of the Test Guidelines for Pumpkin. The TWV noted the expressions of interest of European Union, France, Japan, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and Spain to support the revision of the Test Guidelines for Pumpkin. The TWV agreed that, alternatively, Austria could report the use of additional characteristics and states of expression using the template provided in document TGP/5, Section 10 "Notification of additional characteristics and states of expression."

Elephant Grass (Cenchrus purpureus)

32. The TWA received a presentation on Elephant Grass (*Cenchrus purpureus* (Schumach.) Morrone; syn. *Pennisetum purpureum*) from an expert from China. A copy of the presentation would be provided in document [TWA/54/2](#) "Reports on Developments in Plant Variety Protection from Members and Observers".

[Annex follows]

Test Guidelines for *Festuca rubra* L. TG/67/5, dated 05/04/2006
Additional Characteristic(s)

Submitting Authority:

CPVO

Contact Expert:

Name:

Bronislava Batorova

Date:

27 March 2026

Organization:

CPVO

Tel.:

E-mail:

batorova@cpvo.europa.eu

		English	français	deutsch	español	Example Varieties/ Exemples/ Beispielssorten/ Variedades ejemplo	[iii] Note/ Nota
New 1.	Around 30 days after inflorescence emergence	Plant: natural height when plants are fully extended					
QN		very short					[1]
MG		very short to short					[2]
		short				Abercharm	[3]
		short to medium					[4]
		medium				Contender	[5]
		medium to tall					[6]
		tall				Gondolin	[7]
		tall to very tall					[8]
		very tall					[9]

The characteristic is measured on row plots according to the UPOV requirements at a different development stage than observation of CPVO characteristic 13: 'Plant: natural height at time of inflorescence emergence' and char. 17: 'Plant: length of longest stem'.

Test Guidelines for *Lolium multiflorum* L.:TG/4/8/2006
Additional State(s) of Expression

Submitting Authority: Contact Expert: Name:

Date: Organization:

Tel.:

E-mail:

		English	français	deutsch	español	Example Varieties/ Exemples/ Beispielsorten/ Variedades ejemplo	Note/ Nota
New 1.	Around 30 days after inflorescence emergence	Plant: natural height when plants are fully extended					
QN		very short					[1]
MG		very short to short					[2]
		short					[3]
		short to medium					[4]
		medium					[5]
		medium to tall					[6]
		tall					[7]
		tall to very tall					[8]
		very tall					[9]

Plant: natural height when plants are fully extended is a regular national characteristic, which is assessed on row plots. It is highly discriminative (20-35 % of the reference varieties can be distinguished) without correlating with other plant height characteristics assessed at different growth stages.
The characteristic fulfils the criteria for uniformity and stability and it is considered very reliable.

Test Guidelines for *Lolium perenne* L.: TG/4/8/2006
Additional State(s) of Expression

Submitting Authority: Contact Expert: Name:

Date: Organization:

Tel.:

E-mail:

		English	français	deutsch	español	Example Varieties/ Exemples/ Beispielsorten/ Variedades ejemplo	Note/ Nota
New 1.	DC 20	Plant: growth habit in summer of year of sowing					
QN		erect					[1]
VG		erect to semi-erect					[2]
		semi-erect				Maxwell	[3]
		semi-erect to medium					[4]
		medium				Tratado	[5]
		medium to semi-prostrate					[6]
		semi-prostrate					[7]
		semi-prostrate to prostrate					[8]
		Pprostrate					[9]

Plant: growth habit in summer of year of sowing is a regularly assessed national characteristic at an early stage of plant development; earlier than CPVO characteristic 2: "Plant: vegetative growth habit (without vernalization)". It is assessed on the basis of notes on row plots. The characteristic fulfils the criteria for uniformity and stability.

Test Guidelines for *Triticum aestivum* L.: TG/3/12 Rev./2017+2022
Additional State(s) of Expression

Submitting
Authority:

CPVO

Contact Expert:

Name:

Date:

27 March 2026

Organization:

CPVO

Tel.:

E-mail:

batorova@cpvo.europa.eu

		English	français	deutsch	español	Example Varieties/ Exemples/ Beispielsorten/ Variedades ejemplo	Note/ Nota
New	1.	60-65	Production of pollen (male sterility)				
QL		absent				A10858	[1]
VS		present				SY Epsom	[9]

The characteristic fulfils the criteria for uniformity and stability. Furthermore, it reflects the breeding progress concerning hybrid varieties in wheat.

[End of Annex and of document]