



**NEW ZEALAND
INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY OFFICE**
Plant Variety Rights

New Zealand

Plant Variety Rights

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

I.A CLOSING DATES – NOTICE TO BREEDERS ENTERING VARIETIES IN CENTRAL DUS TRIALS

CONDUCTED BY THE PVR OFFICE

You will need to meet the following deadline in order to have your variety included in the central trials to be established in 2022 –

Summer-sown Forage Brassicas	Make application by 1 January 2022
Clover	Make application by 15 January 2022
Grasses	Make application by 1 February 2022

I.B HOLIDAY CLOSING OF THE PLANT VARIETY RIGHTS OFFICE

The Plant Variety Rights Office will close at end of business on Friday, 24 December 2021 and re-open on Wednesday, 5 January 2022.

I.C PLANT VARIETY RIGHTS ACT (1987) REVIEW

Following the introduction of the Plant Variety Rights Bill to Parliament in May 2021, the Bill was referred to the Economic Development, Science and Innovation select committee. The Select Committee received submissions in August and is in the process of compiling its conclusions.

A discussion document setting out proposals for regulations to support the new PVR regime was released for consultation in August and submissions received are currently under consideration. Draft Regulations are expected to be made available for public consultation in the early part of 2022, with a target for implementation in mid 2022.

PVR Fees review targeted stakeholder consultation was carried out in August and fees options are currently being developed. The next step is to obtain Cabinet approval for the options and to conclude public consultation by the end of 2021. Final fees decisions are anticipated for early in 2022 with a target for introduction in mid 2022.

I.D COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

The recent public health measures have not had a significant impact on PVR variety testing. The majority of fieldwork has been able to be carried out, in a few cases, not at an optimum time for evaluation. At this stage, there will not be delays to future grant decisions, caused by the recent situation. PVRO wishes to thank those external organisations involved in testing for their continuing cooperation and patience during this unusual period.

I.E TECHNICAL FOCUS GROUP MEETING

The annual meeting of the Plant Variety Rights Technical Focus Group was held on Wednesday 11 August at MBIE, Cashel St, Christchurch. This meeting provides the opportunity for the sharing of information and views between breeders, applicants, industry and PVRO. The meeting report will be available on the website later in October.

I.F ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FOR PASTURE SPECIES

The meeting was held on Wednesday 28 July 2021 at MBIE, Cashel St, Christchurch. DUS testing of pasture and fungal endophyte varieties is increasing in complexity and the group fosters collaboration between plant breeders and PVRO to enhance testing quality. The report has been completed and circulated to participants. The report can be made available to other interested persons on request. Please contact Jacquie Broadhead Jacquie.Broadhead@pvr.govt.nz

I.G UPDATING DETAILS IN THE ON LINE SYSTEM

A reminder that a variety owner and/or their agent/designated contact is responsible for updating any changes to that of the owner or the authorised agent. All such changes can be carried out using the on line system. Any submission of updated information that cannot be accepted due to missing or unclear documentation, a PVR Examiner will respond to explain what is required.

Out of date or incorrect ownership or contact information for a granted variety could have the consequence of the Right being cancelled due to the non-payment of the annual renewal fee because renewal notification was not received. PVRO will make a reasonable effort to ensure that cancellation does not occur when the variety owner had no intention to relinquish the Right, however PVRO can only communicate with authorised persons for that variety.