



**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 –

Clover Make application by 14 January 2022

Grasses Make application by 1 February 2022

Roses Make application by 31 March 2022

Winter and Alternate Cereals Make application by 15 April 2022

### VIII.B APPLICATIONS AND GRANTS FOR 2020/21

During the financial year ended 30 June 2021, 116 applications for plant variety rights were accepted (25% increase on the previous year), 88 grants were issued (11% decrease on the previous year) and 93 grants were terminated (9% decrease on the previous year). At 30 June 2021 there were 1289 valid grants, a slight increase on the previous year.

### I.C FORTY YEARS AS A UPOV MEMBER STATE

New Zealand became a member state of UPOV on 8 November 1981 and IPONZ and UPOV noted this occasion with several media releases. The IPONZ website release can be accessed here <https://www.iponz.govt.nz/news/40-years-of-upov-membership/>

Membership of UPOV has provided benefits to users and applicants but of equal importance is the benefit to PVRO. The free exchange of technical information and experience within the UPOV community has enhanced the quality and consistency of national examination and testing.

### I.D PLANT VARIETY RIGHTS ACT (1987) REVIEW

The report of the Select Committee for Economic Development, Science and Innovation was supplied to Parliament on 19 November 2021 and the Bill now sits at the Second Reading stage. It is anticipated that the Bill will progress through the final Parliamentary stages early next year.

The proposal for Regulations to support the new PVR regime, has been approved by Cabinet, and formal drafting is now underway. An exposure draft of the Regulations will be released for consultation in the first quarter of 2022.

PVR Fees review has compiled the results of targeted stakeholder consultation carried out in August and detailed fees options are now being developed. The next step is to obtain Cabinet approval for the options and to carry out public consultation in the first quarter of 2022.

The objective of the new law coming into force along with the associated Regulations and Fees remains for mid-2022.

Further information regarding the review and the new law is available at

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/business/intellectual-property/plant-variety-rights/>

#### I. E A NEW UPOV MEMBER STATE

Ghana acceded to UPOV on 3 December 2021 and became the seventy eighth member of the Union. The Union now covers ninety-seven countries.

#### I. F VIRTUAL UPOV MEETINGS IN 2021

UPOV again held all its meetings virtually and PVRO maintained active involvement despite sessions being outside normal working hours, usually in the middle of the night. Virtual meetings do provide the possibility of greater participation and Examiners took the opportunity to take part in sessions relevant to their work areas. Exposure to UPOV meetings, particularly the Technical Working Parties, provides training and development not available elsewhere. It was noted that experience had improved the quality of meetings, but it was not infrequent for participants to comment on the eventual wish to return to in person meetings.