



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 2024 –

Summer-sown Forage Brassicas	Make application by 1 January 2024
Clover	Make application by 15 January 2024
Grasses	Make application by 1 February 2024

I.B HOLIDAY CLOSING OF THE PLANT VARIETY RIGHTS OFFICE

The Plant Variety Rights Office will close at end of business on Friday, 22 December 2023 and re-open on Wednesday, 3 January 2024.

I.C CHANGES TO PAYMENTS OF ANNUAL RENEWALS FOR GRANT

The requirements for renewals under the PVR Act 2022 are different to the PVR Act 1987, and there will be a period of transition from the old to the new.

1. There are three factors to note where varieties protected under the 1987 Act will transition to come under the new law:
 - The fee increases from \$160.00 to \$385.00
 - The period to pay changes from (old Act) one month before and to two months after the anniversary date, to (new Act) three months before the anniversary date. If the payment has not been received by the anniversary date, a notice of cancellation will be issued and a further short period for payment will be permitted. When that period expires, the grant will be cancelled.
 - The 1987 Act has no possibility for restoration.
2. There are two factors to note which will only apply to varieties protected under the new PVR Act 2022 (no transitional provisions apply)
 - The period to pay will be three months before the anniversary date. If payment is not received in that period, the grant will be cancelled.
 - New Act grants can be restored (with criteria) if they are cancelled due to non-payment of the fee.

I.D UPDATE AND ADDITION TO THE TECHNICAL QUESTIONNAIRES (TQ) ON THE WEBSITE

As part of the website review process associated with the implementation of the PVR Act 2022, several of the TQs available on the website have been updated and new genera or species TQs have

been added. Future applications should use the most up to date TQs and if you are a regular user of a TQ, we request that you add the latest version to your system. A submitted application may not be accepted if an outdated technical questionnaire is used.

I.E TECHNICAL FOCUS GROUP MEETING 2023

The annual meeting of the Plant Variety Rights Technical Focus Group was held on Thursday 24 August at PVRO, MBIE, 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 TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FOR PASTURE SPECIES MEETING 2023

The meeting was held on Thursday 10 August at PVRO, MBIE, Christchurch. The meeting provides a forum for the discussion of DUS testing of pasture and fungal endophyte varieties and opportunity for experience and information sharing between plant breeders and PVRO. The full 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 DUS TESTING PROVIDER FOR AGRICULTURAL SPECIES

AsureQuality Ltd has been reappointed as the provider of centralised DUS testing for pasture and forage species, cereals, peas and potatoes. The growing trials for these species will continue to be in and around Lincoln, Canterbury. AsureQuality Ltd works closely with the PVR Examiners in Christchurch.