



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 2026 –

Clover Make application by 15 January 2026

Grasses Make application by 1 February 2026

I.B HOLIDAY CLOSING OF THE PLANT VARIETY RIGHTS OFFICE

The Plant Variety Rights Office will close at end of business on Wednesday, 24 December 2025 and re-open on Monday, 5 January 2026.

I.C TECHNICAL FOCUS GROUP MEETING 2025

The annual meeting of the Plant Variety Rights Technical Focus Group was held on Tuesday 8 July 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 is available at [Technical guidance | Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand](#)

ID BOTANICAL RECLASSIFICATIONS

The botanical proposal was made around a decade ago to reclassify the genus *Hebe* comm ex. Juss into the genus *Veronica* L. The wider adoption of botanical revisions is often slow, with this change gradually gaining support and now reaching a global general consensus. As a consequence, the PVR database has been amended, with all varieties formerly under the botanical name *Hebe* comm ex. Juss are now under *Veronica* L. The use of *Hebe* as the common name has been retained in the database.

A botanical revision of the *Citrus* group, which includes mandarins, oranges, grapefruit and rootstocks, is near conclusion, and will result in a number of changes to national authority databases and the UPOV PLUTO database. The *Citrus* genus will remain with a decrease in the number of species and sub species. The botanical reclassification of *Hebe* and *Citrus* demonstrate that changes to botanical nomenclature are ongoing and can impact variety identification when filing PVR applications and for the searching of databases.

I.E PARTICIPATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC SEED ALLIANCE CONSULTATION ON PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION AND ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING

Representatives from 14 Asia-Pacific countries, including New Zealand, gathered at the end of August in Tokyo for a high-level consultation on Plant Variety Protection (PVP), Essentially Derived Varieties (EDV), and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS). The meeting brought together government authorities, seed industry leaders, and international seed organisations to discuss harmonisation of policy and legal frameworks for plants and intellectual property across the region. Key themes included Japan's proposed updates to its PVP law, the growing role of molecular techniques, AI in DUS testing, and the challenges of enforcing PVP rights in complex agricultural value chains.

Discussions also highlighted the evolving understanding of EDVs, with concerns around identification and the roles of breeders and authorities in their management. New Zealand contributed a presentation on breeder cooperation in variety testing and provided an understanding of how EDV provision in the NZ law may be interpreted. In addition, the meeting underscored the need for regional cooperation, capacity building, and clearer legal definitions to support innovation and fair access to genetic resources for plant breeding.