



New Zealand

Plant Variety Rights

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1. 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 2027 –

Clover	Make application by 15 January 2027
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Grasses	Make application by 1 February 2027
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I.B HOLIDAY CLOSING OF THE PLANT VARIETY RIGHTS OFFICE

The Plant Variety Rights Office will close at end of business on Thursday, 24 December 2026 and re-open on Monday, 4 January 2027.

I.C TECHNICAL FOCUS GROUP MEETING 2026

The annual meeting of the Plant Variety Rights Technical Focus Group was held on Thursday 20 August at Zespri Ltd, Mount Maunganui. 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](#)

I.D PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PVR ACT 2022

In May 2026, the Government announced changes to the current legislation. The announced changes include:

- extending the maximum term of plant variety rights by 5 years for both existing and new rights
- reinstating availability of enforcement during provisional protection so breeders have improved cover from day one of their rights application
- aligning PVR and patents fee frameworks to support a more sustainable system and help keep fees for PVR users stable over time.

Additional information is available at <https://www.iponz.govt.nz/news/changes-announced-to-plant-variety-rights-settings/>

I.E PARTICIPATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC SEED ALLIANCE CONSULTATION ON PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION

Representatives from fourteen (14) Asia-Pacific countries, including New Zealand, gathered in early August in Seoul, Republic of Korea for regional consultation on Plant Variety Protection (PVP), Essentially Derived Varieties (EDV), and Infringements. The meeting was hosted by Korea Seed and Variety Service (KSVS) and brought together government authorities, the seed industry, and international seed organisations. Topics included PVP developments in the Republic of Korea, the introduction of new varieties, regional cooperation in DUS testing, compatibility with Farmers Rights,

Essential Derivation and infringements. Authorities in the process of developing national law consistence with UPOV 91 or in the joining of UPOV, reported on national developments.

New Zealand participation provide the opportunity to share national expertise in DUS testing and learn of developments in other national authorities in a region that is important for NZ.

I.F UPOV PLUTO PLANT VARIETY DATABASE

The database contains the variety denominations for most of the protected varieties worldwide and provides a similarity search tool to compare denominations in the same genus. Breeders or their agents can use the tool to check recorded details for their varieties or their competitors. In addition, a preliminary check to determine if a desired denomination for a new variety has already been used or is too similar to another existing variety, can be carried out.

Further information is available at <https://www.upov.int/en/find-and-explore/databases/pluto-search>