
GUIDELINES FOR MAKING A NATIONAL LIST APPLICATION IN RESPECT OF A CONSERVATION VARIETY

A Conservation Variety is defined as a landrace or plant variety that is naturally adapted to local and regional conditions and is threatened by genetic erosion.

These guidelines are to assist in making applications for National Listing of Conservation Varieties of agricultural species in accordance with Commission Directive 2008/62/EC and The Seeds (National Lists of Varieties) Regulations 2001 as amended by The Seeds (National Lists of Varieties) (Amendment) Regulations 2009. They should be read with the general guidelines for National List applications, available on the Food and Environment Research Agency, (Fera), website;

<http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/plantVarieties/nationalListing/index.cfm>

If you have any queries or would like assistance before making an application please write, telephone or email to the contact points listed at the end of this guidance note.

How to make an application

1. Please write to Fera's Cambridge Office (contact details below) with the following information:
 - name, address and contact details
 - crop species and proposed variety name. The variety name will normally be that under which the variety is historically known.
 - a description of the variety using at least the morphological characters marked by an asterisk, in the DUS (Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability) protocol for the crop species.

DUS protocols can be accessed at:

<http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/plantVarieties/nationalListing/protocolsProcedure.s.cfm>

If you have difficulty supplying a description you are advised to contact an organisation which has experience in such matters. In most cases NIAB, AFBI or SASA (full contact details are listed at the end of this guidance note) are likely to hold descriptions of conservation varieties and should be able to assist.

2. Please provide a brief history of the variety including information on its value in terms of knowledge gained from practical experience during cultivation, reproduction and use.
3. You should provide evidence of the variety's conservation status and regional adaptation as well as its region of origin, i.e. where it has historically been grown and is naturally adapted. You may wish to consider approaching a recognised plant genetic resource organisation to assist in providing this information.

4. If the variety was previously listed, you should include information on when it was removed from the National List. Please state if you are uncertain, and Fera will check the status when processing the application.
5. If an application is successful and the Conservation Variety is added to the National List, the applicant will generally be regarded as the maintainer of the variety. The maintainer is responsible for supplying the National Authorities with seed, true to type, on request. If you require further information on maintainership, please contact Fera, Cambridge Office using the contact details at the end of this guidance note.
6. Payment of the application fee of £175.00 should be made by cheque payable to Fera and should be included with your application.
7. A submission of seed and in some cases other plant material will be required:
 - For cereals, a 250g seed sample must be sent direct to Fera, Cambridge Office together with twenty mature ears selected by the applicant as representative of the variety.
 - For potatoes, a five tuber sample may be required if material of the candidate variety is not held in the SASA reference collection. Applicants should check with SASA using the contact details below before submitting an application.
 - For any other species you should contact Fera, Cambridge Office before submitting your application.

Contact details for the Food and Environment Research Agency

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Other Organisations

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For seed potatoes

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