



**NEW ZEALAND
INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY OFFICE**
Plant Variety Rights

New Zealand

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VIII. GENERAL INFORMATION

VIII.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 2025 –

Winter and Alternate Cereals Make application by 15 April 2025

Spring Cereals and Peas Make application by 15 July 2025

VIII.B NEW UPOV MEMBER STATE

Nigeria acceded to UPOV on 27 March 2025 and becomes the 80th member of the Union. The Union now covers ninety-nine countries.

VIII.C DENOMINATION PROPOSAL AFTER GRANT

Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) variety 'SF Oasis' Grant number 35570

Following the transfer of variety ownership from Seed Force Limited to RAGT New Zealand Limited in 2022, the intention of RAGT is to use the suffix RGT on all proprietary varieties, including varieties formerly owned by Seed Force Ltd.

RAGT request that the variety denomination 'SF Oasis' be changed to the new denomination RGT Oasis.

The change will remain under proposal until 1 July 2025. If no comments are received prior to 1 July 2025, the denomination change for the above variety will be confirmed on that date.

VIII. D ACTIVITY WITH UPOV

PVR IPONZ, IP Australia and the UPOV Secretariat jointly presented a webinar on the use of UPOV PRISMA, the online plant variety protection application tool, for Australasia. Information regarding the connection of PRISMA to the Australian and to the New Zealand national schemes was provided and key elements for easy PRSMA use in each jurisdiction were highlighted. The webinar was recorded and is available here via the UPOV website.

<https://www.upov.int/upovprisma/en/webinars.html>

To support the work of the Technical Working Parties and the Technical Committee, UPOV continues to provide opportunities for Examiners to develop test guideline drafting skills. A webinar on aspects of drafting was recently held and New Zealand provided a presenter for the section on the description of plant morphology and of colour. The webinar was recorded and is available here via the UPOV website https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/webinar_videos.html#QG20

UPOV currently has a focus on the role of the breeder in growing trials to determine distinctness, uniformity and stability (DUS). A seminar is planned in October 2025 in Geneva along with three preparatory webinars held earlier in the year highlighting six national schemes which have a role for

the breeder in DUS testing. The first webinar in April 2025 features Australia and New Zealand. Each authority will explain how the breeder is involved in DUS growing trials and why breeder involvement is an integral component. A breeder's view on such an arrangement is also important and for New Zealand, Plant and Food Research will provide their perspective. Further webinars will be held in the series in May (Canada and Chile) and in June (Kenya and Japan).

VIII.E PVR INFRINGEMENT IN CHINA

In the Plant Variety Rights Journal number 177 April 2024, information was provided regarding the award of significant damages to ENZAFruit for the successful plant variety rights infringement civil case in the Lanzhou Intermediate Court of Gansu Province China after local growers were found to be using the apple variety 'Scilate', known by the brand name Envy, without the authorisation of the variety owner.

In the last year, the case was escalated to the Supreme People's Court, which in February 2025 upheld the ruling of the intermediate Court and made the value of the substantial compensation award, which includes punitive damages, a matter of public record.

This final ruling is viewed by plant breeders and industry as one of significance for commercial variety management in China.