

PROTOCOL FOR DISTINCTNESS, UNIFORMITY AND STABILITY TESTS

Botanical name	English name
Festuca rubra L.	Red fescue
	Creeping fescue
Festuca ovina L.	Sheep's fescue
Festuca filiformis Pourr.	Fine-leaf fescue, Hair fescue,
Festuca tenuifolia Sibth.	Slender fescue
Festuca brevipila R. Tracey,	Hard fescue
Festuca trachyphylla Hack Krajina	Reliant hard fescue
Festuca heterophylla Lam.	Shade fescue
Festuca pseudovina Hack. ex Wiesb.	Pseudovina

RED FESCUE, SHEEP'S FESCUE, HAIR FESCUE, RELAINT HARD FESCUE, SHADE FESCUE, PSEUDOVINA

UPOV Species Codes:
FESTU_RUB; FESTU_OVI; FESTU_FIL; FESTU_BRE; FESTU_TRA; FESTU_HET;
FESTU_PSO

Adopted on 23/06/2011

Entry into force on 23/06/2011

I SUBJECT OF THE PROTOCOL

The protocol describes the technical procedures to be followed in order to meet the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No. 2100/94 on Community Plant Variety Rights. The technical procedures have been agreed by the Administrative Council and are based on general UPOV Document TG/1/3 and UPOV Guideline TG/7/5 dated 05/04/2006 for the conduct of tests for Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability. This protocol applies to all varieties of *Festuca rubra* L., *Festuca ovina* L., *Festuca filiformis* Pourr., *Festuca tenuifolia* Sibth., *Festuca brevipila* R. Tracey, *Festuca trachyphylla* Hack Krajina, *Festuca heterophylla* Lam. and *Festuca pseudovina* Hack. ex Wiesb.

II SUBMISSION OF SEED AND OTHER PLANT MATERIAL

1. The Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) is responsible for informing the applicant of

- the closing date for the receipt of plant material;
- the minimum amount and quality of plant material required;
- the Examination Office to which material is to be sent.

A sub-sample of the material submitted for test will be held in the variety collection of the Examination Office as the definitive sample of the candidate variety.

2. Final dates for receipt of documentation and material by the Examination Office

The final dates for receipt of requests, technical questionnaires and the final date or submission period for plant material will be decided by the CPVO and each Examination Office chosen.

The Examination Office is responsible for immediately acknowledging the receipt of requests for testing, and technical questionnaires. Immediately after the closing date for the receipt of plant material the Examination Office should inform the CPVO if no plant material has been received. However, if unsatisfactory plant material is submitted the CPVO should be informed as soon as possible.

3. <u>Seed requirements</u>

Information with respect to closing dates and submission requirements of plant material for the technical examination of varieties can be found on the CPVO web site (www.cpvo.europa.eu).

Quality of seed material: The minimum requirements should not be less than the standards laid down in Council Directive 66/401/EEC.

Seed treatment: The plant material must not have undergone any treatment unless the CPVO and the Examination Office allow or request such treatment. If it has been treated, full details of the treatment must be given.

Labelling of sample: - Species

- File number of the application allocated by the CPVO
- Breeder's reference
- Examination reference (if known)
- Name of applicant
- The phrase "On request of the CPVO".

III CONDUCT OF TESTS

1. <u>Variety collection</u>

A variety collection will be maintained for the purpose of establishing distinctness of the candidate varieties in test. A variety collection may contain both living material and descriptive information. A variety will be included in a variety collection only if plant material is available to make a technical examination.

Pursuant to Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 2100/94, the basis for a collection should be the following:

- varieties listed or protected at the EU level or at least in one of the EEA Member States;
- · varieties protected in other UPOV Member States;
- any other variety in common knowledge.

The composition of the variety collection in each Examination Office depends on the ecological conditions in which the Examination Office is located.

Variety collections will be held under conditions which ensure the long term maintenance of each accession. It is the responsibility of Examination Offices to replace reference material which has deteriorated or become depleted. Replacement material can only be introduced if appropriate tests confirm conformity with the existing reference material. If any difficulties arise for the replacement of reference material Examination Offices must inform the CPVO. If authentic plant material of a variety cannot be supplied to an Examination Office the variety will be removed from the variety collection.

2. Material to be examined

Candidate varieties will be directly compared with other candidates for Community plant variety rights tested at the same Examination Office, and with appropriate varieties in the variety collection. When necessary an Examination Office may also include other candidates and varieties. Examination Offices should therefore make efforts to co-ordinate the work with other offices involved in DUS-testing of fescues. There should be at least an exchange of technical questionnaires for each candidate variety, and during the test period, Examination Offices should notify each other and the CPVO of candidate varieties which are likely to present problems in establishing distinctness. In order to solve particular problems Examination Offices may exchange plant material.

3. Characteristics to be used

The characteristics to be used in DUS tests and preparation of descriptions shall be those referred to in the table of characteristics. All the characteristics shall be used, providing that observation of a characteristic is not rendered impossible by the expression of any other characteristic, or the expression of a characteristic is prevented by the environmental conditions under which the test is conducted. In the latter case, the CPVO should be informed. In addition the existence of some other regulation e.g. plant health, may make the observation of the characteristic impossible.

The Administrative Council empowers the President, in accordance with Article 23 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1239/95, to insert additional characteristics and their expressions in respect of a variety.

4. Grouping of varieties

The varieties and candidates to be compared will be divided into groups to facilitate the assessment of distinctness. Characteristics which are suitable for grouping purposes are those which are known from experience not to vary, or to vary only slightly, within a variety and which in their various states of expression are fairly evenly distributed throughout the collection. In the case of continuous grouping characteristics overlapping states of expression between adjacent groups is required to reduce the risks of incorrect allocation of candidates to groups. The characteristics that could be used for grouping are the following (CPVO numbering; G for grouping in the table of characteristics)

- (a) Plant: ploidy (characteristic 1)
- (b) Plant: development of rhizomes (characteristic 9)
- (c) Plant: time of inflorescence emergence (characteristic 12)

5. <u>Trial designs and growing conditions</u>

The minimum duration of tests will normally be two independent growing cycles. Tests will be carried out under conditions ensuring normal growth.

The test design is as follows:

As a minimum, each test should include at least:

60 spaced plants which should be divided between at least 3 replicates.

In addition the test may include 8 meters of row plot which should be divided between at least 2 replicates. The density of the seed should be such that around 200 plants/meter can be expected.

Unless otherwise indicated, all observations on single plants should be made on 60 plants or parts taken from each of 60 plants and any other observations made on all plants in the test. In the case of observations of parts taken from single plants, the number of parts to be taken from each of the plants should be 1.

The design of the test should be such that plants or parts of plants may be removed for measuring and counting without prejudice to the observations which must be made up to the end of the growing cycle.

6. Special tests

In accordance with Article 83(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 2100/94 an applicant may claim either in the Technical Questionnaire or during the test that a candidate has a characteristic which would be helpful in establishing distinctness. If such a claim is made and is supported by reliable technical data, a special test may be undertaken providing that a technically acceptable test procedure can be devised.

Special tests will be undertaken, with the agreement of the President of CPVO, where distinctness is unlikely to be shown using the characters listed in the protocol.

7. <u>Standards for decisions</u>

a) **Distinctness**

A candidate variety will be considered to be distinct if it meets the requirements of Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 2100/94.

Qualitative characteristics:

In the case of characteristics which show discrete discontinuous states of expression, a difference between two varieties is clear if the respective characteristics have expressions which fall into two different states.

Quantitative characteristics:

Characteristics which show a continuous range of expression from one extreme to the other may be either visually observed or measured.

In the case of characteristics assessed by a single observation of a group of plants or parts of plants (VG, MG), a difference between two varieties is clear if the expression of the respective characteristics differs by at least the span of one note, taking into account the variability observed within the varieties.

In the case of characteristics assessed by observations of individual plants or parts of plants (VS, MS) or by repeated measurements of groups of plants (MG), distinctness should be assessed by the combined over years distinctness analysis (COYD). The probability level for the COYD criterion should be 1% or less (p<0.01) in a test over either two or three growing cycles.

If the conditions for the application of the COYD analyses are not fulfilled, distinctness should be assessed using the 2x1% method.

b) Uniformity

The variability within the variety should not exceed the variability of comparable varieties already known.

In case of observation of a group of plants or parts of plants (VG, MG) for the assessment of distinctness, uniformity should be assessed on the basis of visual observation of off-types.

In case of observation of individual plants or parts of plants (VS, MS) for the assessment of distinctness, uniformity should be assessed by using COYU or other appropriate statistical methods.

If uniformity is assessed by the combined over years uniformity method (COYU)

- the candidate variety which has completed two years of test, can be accepted as uniform when its combined over years uniformity (COYU) is not significantly greater than that of the appropriate reference varieties at the 1% (P=0.01) significance level.
- the candidate variety which has completed three years of test, can be accepted as uniform when its combined over years uniformity (COYU) is not significantly greater than that of the appropriate reference varieties at the 0.1% (P=0.001) significance level.

If the conditions for the application of the COYU analyses are not fulfilled, uniformity should be assessed using the relative variance method. For a sample size of 60 plants, the threshold level should be $1.6\ x$ variance of the comparable varieties.

c) Stability

A candidate will be considered to be sufficiently stable when there is no evidence to indicate that it lacks uniformity.

Seed samples of further submissions included in any test must show the same expression of characteristics as the material originally supplied.

IV REPORTING OF RESULTS

After each recording season the results will be summarised and reported to the CPVO in the form of a UPOV model interim report in which any problems will be indicated under the headings distinctness, uniformity and stability. Candidates may meet the DUS standards after two growing cycles but in some cases three growing cycles may be required. When tests are completed the results will be sent by the Examination Office to the CPVO in the form of a UPOV model final report.

If it is considered that the candidate complies with the DUS standards, the final report will be accompanied by a variety description in the format recommended by UPOV. If not the reasons for failure and a summary of the test results will be included with the final report.

The CPVO must receive interim reports and final reports by the date agreed between the CPVO and the Examination Office.

Interim reports and final examination reports shall be signed by the responsible member of the staff of the Examination Office and shall expressly acknowledge the exclusive rights of disposal of CPVO.

V LIAISON WITH THE APPLICANT

If problems arise during the course of the test the CPVO should be informed so that the information can be passed on to the applicant. Subject to prior permanent agreement, the applicant may be directly informed at the same time as the CPVO particularly if a visit to the trial is advisable.

VI ENTRY INTO FORCE

The present protocol enters into force on **23/06/2011**. Any ongoing DUS examination of candidate varieties started before the aforesaid date will not be affected by the approval of the revised Technical Protocol. Technical examinations of candidate varieties are carried out according to the TP in force when the DUS test starts. The starting date of a DUS examination is considered to be the due date for submitting of plant material for the first test period.

In cases where the Office requests to take-over a DUS report for which the technical examination has either been finalized or which is in the process to be carried out at the moment of this request, such report can only be accepted if the technical examination has been carried out according to the CPVO TP which was in force at the moment when the technical examination started.

Introduction to the Table of Characteristics

1. Legend

1.1 Type of characteristic

QL: Qualitative characteristic QN: Quantitative characteristic

1.2 Method of observation

MG: Measurement of a group of plants or plant parts

MS: Measurement of a number of individual plants or parts of plants

VG: Visual assessment by a single observation of a group of plants or plant parts

VS: Visual assessment by observation of individual plants or plant parts

If more than one method of observation is indicated for a specific characteristic, the examination office has to choose the most appropriate method under its conditions. The characteristic should not be assessed twice.

1.3 The recommended type of plot in which to observe the characteristic

A: spaced plants B: row plot C: special test

If more than one type of plot is indicated for a specific characteristic, the examination office has to choose the most appropriate plot type under its conditions. The characteristic should not be assessed twice.

1.4 Species abbreviations for example varieties:

(Fo): Festuca ovina
(Fr): Festuca rubra
(Ft): Festuca trachyphylla
(Ff): Festuca filiformis

1.5 Further abbreviations in the table of characteristics

(a)-(e) Explanations covering several characteristics(+) Explanations for individual characteristics

VI - TABLE OF CHARACTERISTICS TO BE USED IN DUS-TEST AND PREPARATION OF DESCRIPTION

CPVO N°	UPOV N°	Stage,¹ Method	Characteristics	Examples ²	Note
1.	1.	10-29	Plant: ploidy		
(+)		С	diploid	Barok (Ff)	2
QL			tetraploid	Quatro (Fo)	4
			hexaploid	Biljart (Ft), Musica (Fr) Melrose (Ft)	6
G			octoploid	Chopin (Fr)	8
2.	2.	23-25	Leaf sheath: anthocyanin coloration		
QN		С	absent or very weak	Bargreen II (Fr), Namib (Ft)	1
			weak	Chopin (Fr)	3
			medium	Jasperina (Fr), Camilla (Fr)	5
			strong	N.F.G. Theodor Roemer (Fr), Symphony (Fr)	7
			very strong	Echo (Fr)	9
3.	3.	20-29	Plant: natural height (before vernalization)		
QN		VS A/ VG B	very short	Clio (Ft)	1
		(a)	short	Spartan (Ft), Mentor (Ft)	3
			medium	Barcrown (Fr)	5
			tall	Lambada (Fr)	7
			very tall	Tàborskà (Fr)	9
4.	4.	29	Plant: growth habit (before vernalization)		
(b)		VS A/ VG B	erect		1
QN		(a)	semi erect	Barpusta (Fr)	3
			medium	Barcrown (Fr), Trophy (Fr)	5
			semi prostrate	Ridu (Ft), Echo (Fr)	7
			prostrate		9

¹ See explanations in Annex 1.

² Example varieties are given as an indication, others may be used.

CPVO N°	UPOV N°	Stage, ¹ Method	Characteristics	Examples ²	Note
5.	5.	29	Leaf: length		
(+)		VS A/ VG B	very short		1
QN		(a)	short	Count (Fr), Euromaster (Fr) Quatro (Fo)	3
			medium	Calliope (Fr), Mentor (Ft)	5
			long	Jasperina (Fr)	7
			very long	Gondolin (Fr)	9
6.	6.	29	Only Red Fescue varieties: Leaf: width		
QN		VS A/ VG B	very narrow		1
		(a)	narrow	Barswing (Fr)	3
			medium	Liroyal (Fr)	5
			wide	N.F.G. Theodor Roemer (Fr)	7
			very wide		9
7.	7.	29	Leaf: intensity of green colour		
QN		VG A/ VS A/ VG B	very light		1
		(a)	light	Calliope (Fr)	3
			medium	Samanta (Fr)	5
			dark	Diego (Fr), Lisamba (Fr)	7
			very dark	Medal (Ft),	9
8.	8.	29	Leaf: glaucosity		
QL		VG A/ VG B	absent	Trophy (Fr)	1
		(a)	present	Silhouette (Fr), Bornito (Ft)	9
9.	9.	29-31	Only Red Fescue varieties: Plant: development of rhizomes		
(+)		VS A	absent or very weak	Trophy (Fr)	1
QN		(a)	medium	Lisamba (Fr)	2
G			strong	Rosita (Fr)	3

CPVO N°	UPOV N°	Stage, ¹ Method	Characteristics	Examples ²	Note
10.		30-39	Only Red Fescue varieties: Plant: vegetative growth habit (after vernalization)		
QN		VG A/ VG B	semi-erect	Gondolin (Fr)	3
(b)			medium	Lisamba (Fr)	5
			semi-prostrate	Samanta (Fr)	7
11.		30-39	Leaf: intensity of green colour (after vernalization)		
QN		VG A/ VG B	light		3
			medium	Mentor (Ft)	5
			dark	Camilla (Fr), Medal (Ft)	7
			very dark	Tarnat (Fr)	9
12.	10.	50-56	Plant: time of inflorescences emergence		
(+)		MS A	very early	Bornito (Ft)	1
QN			early	Lisamba (Fo), Melrose (Ft)	3
			medium	Trophy (Fr)	5
			late	Cezanne (Fr)	7
G			very late	Kiruna (Fr)	9
13.	11.	50-56	Plant: natural height at time of inflorescence emergence (excluding the flag leaf blade)		
QN		MS A/ MG B	short	Mentor (Ft)	3
			medium	Smirna (Fr)	5
			long	Gondolin (Fr), N.F.G. Theodor Roemer (Fr)	7
14.	12.	52-56	Flag leaf: length		
(+)		MS A	very short	Melord (Ft)	1
QN			short	Blues (Ft), Toucan (Fr)	3
			medium	Chopin (Fr)	5
			long	Gondolin (Fr)	7
			very long		9

CPVO N°	UPOV N°	Stage,¹ Method	Characteristics	Examples ²	Note
15.	13.	52-56	Only Red Fescue varieties: Flag leaf: width		
(+)		MS A	narrow	Nizina (Fr)	3
QN			medium	Zamboni (Fr)	5
			wide	Condor (Fr), Echo (Fr)	7
16.	14.	52-56	Only Red Fescue varieties: Flag leaf: length/width ratio		
QN		MS A	small	Symphony (Fr)	3
			medium	Zamboni (Fr)	5
			large	Franklin (Fr)	7
17.	15.	60-68	Plant: length of longest stem (inflorescence included)		
(+)		MS A	very short	Namib (Ft)	1
QN			short	Euromaster (Fr)	3
			medium	Spartan (Ft), Trophy (Fr)	5
			long	Condor (Fr)	7
			very long	Gondolin (Fr)	9
18.	16.	60-68	Plant: length of upper internode		
(+)		MS A	very short	Nimba (Fr), Nizina (Fr)	1
QN			short	Kiruna (Fr), Namib (Ft)	3
			medium	Barcrown (Fr)	5
			long	Casanova (Fr)	7
			very long	Gondolin (Fr)	9
19.	17.	60-68	Inflorescence: length		
(+)		MS A	very short	Namib (Ft)	1
QN			short	Spartan (Ft), Cezanne (Fo)	3
			medium	Adinda (Fr)	5
			long	Gondolin (Fr)	7
			very long		9

CPVO N°	UPOV N°	Stage,¹ Method	Characteristics	Examples ²	Note
20.	18.	60-68	Inflorescence: anthocyanin coloration of the panicle		
QN		VG A/ VG B	absent or very weak		1
			weak	Calliope (Fr), Blues (Ft)	3
			medium	Diego (Fr), Herald (Fr)	5
			strong	Bornito (Ft), Tarnat (Fr),	7
			very strong		9

ANNEXES TO FOLLOW

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ANNEX I

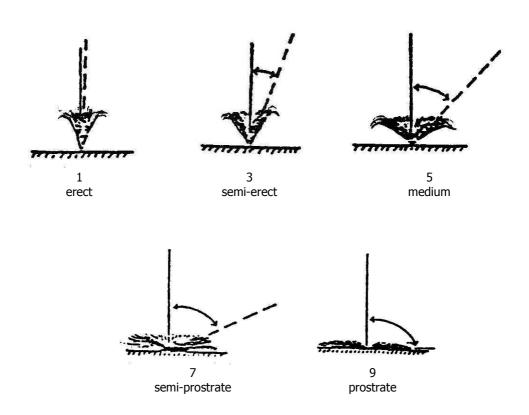
1. Explanations on the Table of Characteristics

1.1 Explanations covering several characteristics

(a) The optimal stage to observe these characteristics is at DC 29, which is usually in the year of planting before vernalization. The development of rhizomes can be observed until the beginning of stem elongation (DC 31).

(b) Plant: growth habit

The observations should be made visually from the attitude of the leaves of the plant as a whole. The angle formed by the imaginary line through the region of greatest leaf density and the vertical should be used.



1.2 Explanations for individual characteristics

Ad. 1: Plant: ploidy

The ploidy of the plant should be determined by standard cytological methods.

Ad. 5: Leaf length

Total leaf length is the length including the leaf blade and leaf sheath.

Ad. 9: Only Red Fescue varieties: Plant: development of rhizomes

Rhizomes can be observed at the bottom of the stem. Absent or weak development of rhizomes is when there is no rhizome development or rhizome primordia can be observed with a magnifying glass. Medium development of rhizomes is when few and short rhizomes are observed. Strong development of rhizomes is when abundant and long rhizomes are observed.

Ad. 12: Plant: time of inflorescence emergence

Spaced plants or row plots should be observed at least twice a week.

A: Plots with spaced plants

The date of heading of each single plant should be assessed. A single plant is considered to have headed when the tip of three heads (just after DC 50) can be seen protruding from the flag leaf sheath. From the single plant data a mean date per plot and a mean date per variety is obtained.

Ad. 14: Flag leaf: length

Ad. 15: Only Red Fescue varieties: Flag leaf: width

Flag leaf is the first leaf below the inflorescence.

Time: within a period of two to three weeks after heading (DC 52-56).

Measurements should be made on the same leaf.

Length should be measured to an accuracy of at least 1mm, from the tip of the leaf blade to the leaf sheath.

Width should be measured to an accuracy of at least 0.5mm, at the widest point of the leaf blade.

Ad. 17: Plant: length of longest stem (inflorescence included)

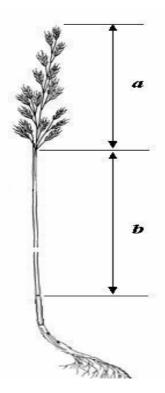
Length of the longest stem (inflorescence included) is measured from ground level.

Ad. 18: Plant: length of upper internode

Ad. 19: Inflorescence: length

Char. 18: b = The part of the stem above the upper node up to the beginning of the inflorescence is the upper internode

Char. 19: a = Length of the inflorescence (of the longest stem)



2. Growth stages for grasses

All characteristics should be recorded at the appropriate time for the plant concerned. Growth stages of grasses are indicated by decimal codes which are derived from the decimal code for the growth stages of cereals (Zadoks, et al., 1974). This decimal code is in close conformity with the BBCH-code (Meier, 1997).

Seedling growth (seedling: one shoot)

DC 10 DC 15 DC 19	First leaf through coleoptile Five leaves unfolded Nine or more leaves unfolded
	Tillering
DC 20 DC 23 DC 25 DC 29	Main shoot only (beginning of tillering) Main shoot and 3 tillers Main shoot and 5 tillers Main shoot and 9 or more tillers
	Stem elongation
DC 30 DC 31 DC 35 DC 39	Pseudo-stem erection (formed by sheaths of leaves) First node detectable (early stem extension across all stems) Fifth node detectable (50 % extension across all stems) Flag leaf ligula/collar just visible (pre-boot stage)
	Booting
DC 41 DC 45 DC 47 DC 49	Flag leaf sheath extending (little enlargement of the inflorescence, early boot-stage) Boots swollen (late-boot stage) First leaf sheath opening first awns visible (in awned forms only)
	Inflorescence emergence (mostly non-synchronous)
DC 50 DC 52 DC 54 DC 56 DC 58	First spikelet of inflorescence just visible 25 % of the inflorescence emerged (across all stems) 50 % of the inflorescence emerged (across all stems) 75 % of the inflorescence emerged (across all stems) Emergence of inflorescence completed
	Anthesis (mostly non-synchronous)
DC 60 DC 64 DC 68	Beginning of anthesis Anthesis half-way Anthesis complete

ANNEX II

The Technical Questionnaire is available on the CPVO website under the following reference: $\ensuremath{\text{CPVO-TQ/067/1}}$