

**UNITED KINGDOM NATIONAL LIST/ PLANT BREEDERS RIGHTS TECHNICAL PROTOCOL FOR THE  
OFFICIAL EXAMINATION OF DISTINCTNESS, UNIFORMITY AND STABILITY (DUS)**

**BEETROOT**

**(INCLUDING CHELTENHAM BEET)**

*(Beta vulgaris L. ssp. vulgaris var. conditiva Alef.)*

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**SECTION A - GENERAL INFORMATION****1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This Protocol sets out the procedures for conducting tests and assessments in relation to official examinations of DUS and maintenance of reference stocks of varieties of Beetroot entered for National List (NL) and Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR) Trials.

**2 SCOPE**

- 2.1 These procedures apply to all varieties of Beetroot (*Beta vulgaris* L., ssp. *vulgaris* var. *conditiva* Alef.) including Cheltenham Beet. Special procedures and responsibilities for Genetically Modified (GM) varieties are set out in Sections A5 and A6.
- 2.2 Except where specified in this protocol or authorised by The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Plant Varieties and Seeds, only National List candidates, Plant Breeders' Rights candidates, candidates for Foreign Authorities and the reference varieties may be incorporated in the DUS tests.

**3 RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1 The growing tests and assessments in this protocol are carried out under the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Scottish Ministers, Welsh Ministers and the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland (the National Authorities).
- 3.2 They are supervised, on behalf of the National Authorities, by officials of the Testing Authorities, that is The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), the Scottish Government Agriculture and Rural Development (SGARD), the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARDNI) and the Welsh Government (WG).
- 3.3 This protocol is authorised by the Plant Variety and Seeds Committee (PVSC). It cannot be amended without their approval. Requests and suggestions for amendment of the protocol should be put in writing to APHA, Plant Varieties and Seeds, either directly or via the Test Centre.
- 3.4 The procedures are administered by:

Plant Varieties and Seeds  
The Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Eastbrook  
Shaftesbury Road  
Cambridge  
CB2 8DR

Tel No 0300 060 0497  
Fax No 0300 060 2115

**3.5 TEST CENTRE**

The DUS growing tests and assessments in this protocol are co-ordinated and carried out by the:

Vegetable DUS Test Centre  
Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA)  
Roddinglaw Road  
Edinburgh  
EH12 9FJ

Tel No 0131-244 8853  
Fax No 0131-244 8940

- 3.6 The Test Centre is responsible for providing the appropriate facilities.

## 4 NON COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROTOCOL

- 4.1 Where the protocol uses the word “must” for any action then failure to carry out this action will result in non-compliance. Where non-compliance occurs or there are concerns regarding the validity of any data or tests this must be reported to APHA, Plant Varieties and Seeds. Where this protocol uses the word “should” for any action this is the method to be followed unless there are clear reasons not to do so which can be justified by the Test Centre as technically sound.

## 5 RESPONSIBILITY FOR GM RELEASES

- 5.1 GM Release Consent Holders are responsible for GM releases. All parties involved in DUS work operating under a GM Release Consent must adhere to the instructions of the Release Consent Holder where necessary, to comply with the relevant consent conditions. Where DUS protocol non-compliance occurs, this must be reported to the consent holder and the Test Centre who will notify APHA, Plant Varieties and Seeds.

## 6 PROCEDURES FOR GM VARIETIES

- 6.1 Applicants intending to enter GM candidates must consult APHA, Plant Varieties and Seeds, well in advance of their application, about specific requirements under GM regulations.
- 6.2 The Test Centre must ensure that no test or trial sites are planted with GM candidates and/or varieties until APHA, Plant Varieties and Seeds has given the specific clearances.

## 7 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- 7.1 The following documents are associated with this protocol

Reference	Title
CPVO-TP/060/1	Protocol for Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability Tests. Beetroot ( <i>Beta vulgaris</i> L., ssp. <i>vulgaris</i> var. <i>conditiva</i> Alef.) Published 01.04.2009
UPOV TG/60/7	Guidelines for the Conduct of Tests For Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability Tests. Beetroot ( <i>Beta vulgaris</i> L. ssp. <i>vulgaris</i> var. <i>conditiva</i> Alef.). Published 09.04.2008.
UPOV TG/1/3	General Introduction to the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability and the Development of Harmonised Descriptions of New Varieties of Plants 19.04.2002
UPOV TGP/8/1	Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability. 21.10.2010
UPOV TGP/9/1	Examining Distinctness. 11.04.2008
UPOV TGP/10/1	Examining Uniformity. 30.10.2008
Commission Directives	Commission Directive of 2003/91/EC, as amended, setting out implementing measures for the purposes of Article 7 of Council Directive 2002/55/EC (13 <sup>th</sup> June 2002) as regards the characteristics to be covered as a minimum by the examination and the minimum conditions for examining certain varieties of vegetable species. [ <i>Beta vulgaris</i> L. Beetroot including Cheltenham Beet]
Council Regulation (EC) No. 2100/94	Council Regulation (EC) No. 2100/94 of 27 July 1994 on Community Plant Variety Rights.

**SECTION B - APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS****1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this section is to identify the specific requirements for National List and Plant Breeders' Rights applications.

**2 SCOPE**

- 2.1 These procedures apply to all applications.

**3 RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1 The applicants are responsible for ensuring that these procedures are complied with.

**4 RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The latest date for receipt of applications for acceptance of a variety onto the National List or for Plant Breeders' Rights is 31<sup>st</sup> January, which is set administratively by APHA, Plant Varieties and Seed. Applications received after this date may be considered for inclusion in the current year's tests and trials on a case by case basis.
- 4.2 The procedures for the submission of National List and Plant Breeders' Rights applications, Technical Questionnaires (TQ) and for payment of administrative fees are set out on the GOV website <https://www.gov.uk/national-lists-of-agricultural-and-vegetable-crops>
- 4.3 Applicants should notify APHA, Plant Varieties and Seeds of special DUS characteristics which may require additional examinations. These claims should, in addition, be noted in the TQ accompanying the application.

**5 RECEIPT OF SEED**

- 5.1 The latest date for receipt of seed is 28<sup>th</sup> February and is set administratively by APHA, Plant Varieties and Seeds. Seed submissions received after this date will normally be refused. Instructions for the delivery of seed will be made available to applicants by APHA, Plant Varieties and Seeds.

**6 SEED QUALITY REQUIREMENTS**

- 6.1 The seed must satisfy the quality requirements for Basic Seed as laid down in Schedule 2 of the Seed Marketing Regulations 2011 and equivalent regulations made by Devolved Administrations.
- 6.2 The seed must not be chemically treated. Seed treatment, where appropriate, will be undertaken by the Test Centre. The chemicals applied and rates of application will be determined by the Test Centre.

**7 SEED QUANTITY**7.1 1<sup>st</sup> Test cycle

2,000 or 6,000 seeds or seed clusters

7.2 2<sup>nd</sup> Test cycle

4,000 seeds or seed clusters if 2,000 seeds or seed clusters were provided in year 1

No seed if 6,000 seeds were provided in year 1

Where a second sample has been provided, it will be authenticated against the original submission. An additional charge will be applied.

**8 LABELLING REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR GM VARIETIES**8.1 Applicants **must** clearly label their seed with the following information:.

- Applicant
- Breeder's Reference number or name
- Type of seed
- Quantity of seed

## 8.2 All packages of GM material must be clearly labelled as "GMO" or "Genetically Modified Organism".

**SECTION C – GROWING TEST PROCEDURES****1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this section is to provide details of the procedures used in the growing tests for DUS analysis.

**2 SCOPE**

- 2.1 These procedures apply to all varieties of Beetroot (*Beta vulgaris* L., ssp. *vulgaris* var. *conditiva* Alef.).

**3 RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1 The Test Centre is responsible for conducting these procedures.
- 3.2 The Test Centre will be responsible for ensuring that no material supplied to them is used for any other purpose than the conduct of these procedures or the release of reference samples for authorised purposes. (See Section E7)

**4 REFERENCE VARIETIES**

- 4.1 The principles governing the selection of reference varieties are set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 Seed of reference varieties will be supplied by the DUS Test Centre.

**5 DESIGN OF TESTS**

- 5.1 The DUS Test Centre is responsible for selecting a suitable site which should be on ground that has normally not had a Cruciferous crop in the previous five years but may be less where the risk is negligible.
- 5.2 Field husbandry should follow best local practice for all operations and particularly as regards cultivation, drilling, transplanting, fertiliser and spray application, use of irrigation, and control of pests and diseases.
- 5.3 From information given in the Technical Questionnaire the candidate variety may be grown in plots and compared with varieties which are in the same classification for the following characters:

CPVO characteristics that could be used for grouping

Germity (characteristic 1)  
 Leaf blade: colour (characteristic 9)  
 Root: shape in longitudinal section (characteristic 17)  
 Root: external colour (characteristic 23)  
 Bolting tendency (from early sowing) (characteristic 27)

- 5.4 Varieties known to be clearly different from the candidate on any other discontinuous or continuous characteristic may be excluded from the trial. If this exclusion is based on a characteristic which is not listed in Section D 5.1 approval by the NLSC and CPVO must be sought. See Section F for further information on additional characters.

- 5.5 The tests are carried out using a grouped design, with a plot of each candidate and close control variety present in each replicate as follows:

Number of replications	2
Number of rows per plot	3
Spacing between plot rows	0.4m
Plot length	10 m
Number of plants per replicate	at least 150
Hence, number of plants per variety	at least 300
Plant spacing	0.2m (approx)

Groups are randomised and varieties are randomised within groups.

- 5.6 Seed is sown into the field between May and early June according to a plan produced by the Test Centre. Varieties are coded by the Test Centre.
- 5.7 Any candidate with distinctness problems in the first cycle of test may be grown side by side with their close controls in the second or third cycles.
- 5.8 Recordings are taken on each trial from approximately 12 weeks after sowing until harvest maturity stage. Characters recorded are listed in Section D.

## 6 RECORDS AND RECORDING

- 6.1 All records and plot data should be in a form determined and validated by the Test Centre.
- 6.2 Characters, recording details and instructions are given in Section D. Any variant and abnormal plants or plants resulting from an adverse reaction to husbandry practice are noted but excluded from the sample.
- 6.3 In the first test cycle, characters, as indicated in Section D5.1, are recorded on all candidates and their controls. The data for measured characters are analysed and used to determine the most similar reference varieties and assess uniformity of the candidate. (For details see Section G).
- 6.4 In the second test cycle, characters, as indicated in Section D5.1, are recorded on all candidates and their controls. The data for measured characters are analysed and, together with those from the first test cycle, used to determine the most similar reference varieties and assess uniformity of the candidate. (For details see Section G).
- 6.5 If a third test cycle is necessary, characters, as indicated in Section D5.1, are recorded on all candidates and their close controls. The data for measured characters are analysed and, together with those from the first and second test cycles, are used to determine the most similar reference varieties and assess the uniformity of the candidate. (For details see Section G).
- 6.6 If the Test Centre notices unusual or novel characters in a candidate, a note may be made of these at any time and a photographic record made.

## 7 COMMUNICATION WITH THE APPLICANT

- 7.1 The Test Centre will notify the applicant or his agent of any DUS problems at the earliest practical opportunity. All such notifications must be copied to APHA Plant Varieties and Seeds. In the case of tests for foreign DUS authorities, notifications must be copied to the test authority and to APHA, Plant Varieties and Seeds. In the case of European applications, notifications must be copied to CPVO and APHA, Plant Varieties and Seeds.



- 7.2 If confidentiality considerations allow, the applicant should be informed which variety is similar to his own and be invited to submit any information which may help to distinguish them.
- 7.3 If DUS problems arise, applicants will be invited to visit the DUS tests by arrangement so that the material can be examined and discussions held with the Test Centre.
- 7.4 After each recording cycle the results are summarised and reported by the Test Centre to the applicant, APHA, Plant Varieties and Seeds. Who will inform the applicant, foreign test authorities or the CPVO as appropriate..

## **SECTION D - SUMMARY OF DUS CHARACTERISTICS TO BE ASSESSED, METHOD OF ASSESSMENT AND STANDARDS APPLIED**

### **1 PURPOSE**

1.1 The purpose of this section is to summarise the characteristics to be assessed.

### **2 SCOPE**

2.1 This section summarises characteristics, states of expression, method of observation and standards required for DUS assessment.

### **3 RESPONSIBILITIES**

3.1 The Test Centre is responsible for co-ordinating the procedures in this summary.

### **4 ORGANISATION**

4.1 The minimum duration of tests to assess characteristics is normally two independent growing cycles. Shorter periods may be applied for assessment of additional characteristics. Additional growing cycles may be approved by the UK National List and Seeds Committee (NLSC).

### **5 DUS CHARACTERISTICS TO BE ASSESSED**

5.1 Routine Characteristics

The following table summarises the DUS characteristics to be routinely examined.

Legend:

Key to abbreviations used with character number

#### Types of expression of characteristics:

QL Qualitative characteristic  
 QN Quantitative characteristic  
 PQ Pseudo-qualitative characteristic

#### Types of observation of characteristics:

MG Single measurement of a group of plants or parts of plants  
 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 parts of plants  
 VS Visual assessment by observation of individual plants or parts of plants

G denotes a grouping characteristic.

D denotes a characteristic used in the variety description.

Note: For the CPVO numbered characteristics all characteristics in the list are compulsory; notwithstanding, in the case of disease resistance characteristics, only those resistances marked with an asterisk (\*) in the CPVO column are compulsory.

## BEETROOT CHARACTERISTICS ROUTINELY RECORDED IN DUS TESTS

Character Number			Character	Material examined	Number of plants or sample size for assessment	Method of assessment and recording	States of expression	D Method and Minimum distance required	U Method and Standard applied
CPVO TP/060/1 01.04.2009	UPOV TG/60/7 09.04.2008	UK							
01DG QL VG/MS	*01DG QL VG/MS		<b>Germity</b>	Seeds or seed clusters	At least 200 seeds or seed clusters	Visual observation or visual score	1=monogerm 2=multigerm	Clear visual difference or 1 state	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
02D QL VG	*02D QL VG		<b>Seedling: red coloration of hypocotyl</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	1=absent 9=present	Clear visual difference or 1 state	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
03D QN VG	03D QN VG		<b>Leaf: attitude of petiole</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	1=erect 3=semi-erect 5=horizontal	Clear visual difference or 2 states	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
04D QN VG	*04D QN VG		<b>Leaf: attitude of blade</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	1=erect 3=semi-erect 5=horizontal 7=semi-pendulous 9=pendulous	Clear visual difference or 2 states	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
05D QN VG/MS	*05D QN VG/MS		<b>Leaf: length (including petiole)</b>	DUS plot or single plants	At least 200 or 40 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score or measurement of a sample of single plants	3=short 5=medium 7=long	Clear visual difference or 2 states or COYD @ 5% for both 2 and 3 year tests	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5 or COYU @0.1% for both 2 and 3 year tests
06D QN VG/MS	*06D QN VG/MS		<b>Leaf blade: length</b>	DUS plot or single plants	At least 200 or 40 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score or measurement of a sample of single plants	3=short 5=medium 7=long	Clear visual difference or 2 states or COYD @ 5% for both 2 and 3 year tests	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5 or COYU @0.1% for both 2 and 3 year tests
07D QN VG/MS	*07D QN VG/MS		<b>Leaf blade: width</b>	DUS plot or single plants	At least 200 or 40 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score or measurement of a sample of single plants	3=narrow 5=medium 7=broad	Clear visual difference or 2 states or COYD @ 5% for both 2 and 3 year tests	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5 or COYU @0.1% for both 2 and 3 year tests
08D QN VG	*08D QN VG		<b>Leaf blade: shape</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	3=narrow elliptic 5=medium elliptic 7=broad elliptic	Clear visual difference or 2 states	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5

CPVO TP/060/1 01.04.2009	UPOV TG/60/7 09.04.2008	UK	Character	Material examined	Number of plants or sample size for assessment	Method of assessment and recording	States of expression	D Method and Minimum distance required	U Method and Standard applied
09DG QN VG	*09DG QN VG		<b>Leaf blade: colour</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	1=mainly green 2=green and red 3=mainly red	Clear visual difference or 1 state	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
10D QN VG	*10D QN VG		<b>Leaf blade: intensity of green colour</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	3=light 5=medium 7=dark	Clear visual difference or 2 states	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
11D QN VG	11D QN VG		<b>Leaf blade: red coloration of veins</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	1=absent or very weak 3=weak 5=medium 7=strong 9=very strong	Clear visual difference or 2 states	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
12D QN VG	*12D QN VG		<b>Leaf blade: undulation of margin</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	1=absent or very weak 3=weak 5=medium 7=strong 9=very strong	Clear visual difference or 2 states	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
13D QN VG	*13D QN VG		<b>Leaf blade: blistering</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	3=weak 5=medium 7=strong	Clear visual difference or 2 states	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
14D QN VG	14D QN VG		<b>Petiole: width of base (at root insertion)</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	3=narrow 5=medium 7=broad	Clear visual difference or 2 states	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
15D QN VG	*15D PQ VG		<b>Petiole: main colour of lower side</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	1=green 2=orange 3=red 4=purple	Clear visual difference or 1 state	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
16D QN VG	*16D QN VG		<b>Root: position in soil</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	1=very shallow 3=shallow 5=medium 7=deep 9=very deep	Clear visual difference or 2 states	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
17DG PQ VG	*17DG PQ VG		<b>Root: shape in longitudinal section</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	1=transverse narrow elliptic 2=transverse medium elliptic 3=circular 4=obovate 5=narrow oblong 6=very narrow obovate	Clear visual difference or 1 or 2 states	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5

CPVO TP/060/1 01.04.2009	UPOV TG/60/7 09.04.2008	UK	Character	Material examined	Number of plants or sample size for assessment	Method of assessment and recording	States of expression	D Method and Minimum distance required	U Method and Standard applied
18D QN VG/MS	*18D QN VG/MS		<b>Root: length</b>	DUS plot or single plants	At least 200 or 40 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score or measurement of a sample of single plants	3=short 5=medium 7=long	Clear visual difference or 2 states or COYD @ 5% for both 2 and 3 year tests	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5 or COYU @0.1% for both 2 and 3 year tests
19D QN VG/MS	*19D QN VG/MS		<b>Root: width</b>	DUS plot or single plants	At least 200 or 40 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score or measurement of a sample of single plants	3=narrow 5=medium 7=broad	Clear visual difference or 2 states or COYD @ 5% for both 2 and 3 year tests	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5 or COYU @0.1% for both 2 and 3 year tests
20D QN VG/MS	20D QN VG/MS		<b>Root: ratio length/width</b>	DUS plot or single plants	At least 200 or 40 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score or measurement of a sample of single plants	3=small 5=medium 7=large	Clear visual difference or 2 states or COYD @ 5% for both 2 and 3 year tests	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5 or COYU @0.1% for both 2 and 3 year tests
21D PQ VG	*21D PQ VG		<b>Root: shape of tip</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	1=pointed 2=rounded 3=flat 4=depressed	Clear visual difference or 1 or 2 states	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
22D QN VG	22D QN VG		<b>Root: corkiness</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	1=absent or very weak 3=weak 5=medium 7=strong 9=very strong	Clear visual difference or 2 states	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
23DG PQ VG	*23DG PQ VG		<b>Root: external colour</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	1=white 2=yellow 3=reddish purple	Clear visual difference or 1 state	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
24D PQ VG	*24D PQ VG		<b>Root: main colour of flesh</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	1=white 2=yellow orange 3=red 4=purple	Clear visual difference or 1 state	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
25D QN VG	25D QN VG		<b>Root: intensity of main colour of flesh</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	3=light 5=medium 7=dark	Clear visual difference or 2 states	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5

CPVO TP/060/1 01.04.2009	UPOV TG/60/7 09.04.2008	UK	Character	Material examined	Number of plants or sample size for assessment	Method of assessment and recording	States of expression	D Method and Minimum distance required	U Method and Standard applied
26D QN VG	26D QN VG		<b>Root: prominence of rings</b>	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	1=absent or very weak 3=weak 5=medium 7=strong 9=very strong	Clear visual difference or 2 states	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5
27DG QN MG	*27DG QN MG		<b>Bolting tendency (from an early sowing)</b>	Single plants	At least 40 plants in total from 2 replicates	Count on a sample of single plants	1=absent or weak 2=medium 3=strong	Clear visual difference or 1 state or COYD @ 5% for both 2 and 3 year tests	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5 or COYU @0.1% for both 2 and 3 year tests

## 5.2 Previously Approved Characteristics Not Routinely Recorded in DUS Tests

The following table summarises the additional characteristics which have been approved by the NLSC and can be examined at the request of the applicant where necessary to establish Distinctness. A fee may be charged for examination of these characteristics as advised by APHA, Plant Varieties and Seeds.

Character Number			Character	Material examined	Number of plants or sample size for assessment	Method of assessment and recording	States of expression	D Method and Minimum distance required	U Method and Standard applied
CPVO	UPOV	UK							
		QN VG	Leaf: lamina glossiness	DUS plot	At least 200 plants in total from 2 replicates	Visual observation or visual score	3=weak 5=medium 7=strong	Clear visual difference or 2 states	Off-type standard and Uniformity score >5

## 5.3 New Additional DUS Characteristics

Applicants can suggest new additional characters on the Technical Questionnaire for testing DUS or after notification by the DUS Test Centre of distinctness problems. For procedures see Section F.

Character Number			Character	Material examined	Number of plants or sample size for assessment	Method of assessment and recording	States of expression	D Method and Minimum distance required	U Method and Standard applied
CPVO	UPOV	UK							

**SECTION E - REFERENCE SEED STOCK MAINTENANCE****1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1. This section sets out the procedures for the authentication of replacement reference seed.

**2 SCOPE**

- 2.1 These procedures apply to all reference collection varieties.

**3 RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1 The Test Centre is responsible for conducting these procedures.

**4 PROCEDURES FOR REFERENCE SEED STOCK MAINTENANCE**

- 4.1 The seed sample submitted with the successful or pending application is considered to be the definitive stock of the variety. Subject to meeting the required quality standards a small portion of the seed is sown for observation and measurement. The remainder is stored under controlled and monitored storage conditions as part of the official reference collection.
- 4.2 If during the normal tests there is any evidence that a seed stock is deteriorating in storage, or that stocks have low quantity, a request will be made to the maintainer asking for a replacement stock of the variety. This replacement stock must be authenticated, by comparing plots established from the replacement seed with that of the definitive seed, over a maximum of two recording cycles.
- 4.3 If the replacement seed sample cannot be visually distinguished from the definitive reference stock, it will be accepted as representing the variety. If there are visual differences, the new sample will be recorded, and will be accepted as representing the variety if there are no significant ( $P=0.02$ ) differences in the first recording cycle, or no significant ( $P=0.02$ ) differences over two test cycles in a COYD analysis (see associated document UPOV TGP/8/1 for details). It may then be accepted as definitive and substituted for the existing definitive stock in the reference collection. These procedures may be modified, where, in the opinion of the technical officer, differences are the result of environmental or cultural factors.
- 4.4 A replacement sample or additional replacement sample will be considered sufficiently uniform after one recording cycle, if the level of off-types is the same or less than the number at 1% population standard and 95% acceptance probability, and the standard deviations of the measured characters are not significantly greater at the 0.1% ( $P=0.001$ ) significance level than that of the mean standard deviations of the control varieties. Over 2 years the additional replacement sample will be considered sufficiently uniform if the Combined Over Years Uniformity (COYU) is not significantly greater at the 0.1% ( $P=0.001$ ) significance level than that of the reference varieties. These procedures may be modified, where, in the opinion of the technical officer, differences are the result of environmental or cultural factors.
- 4.5 In the event of the replacement sample not meeting the required acceptance standards, an additional replacement sample is requested. Plots will be established from any additional replacement seed sample and compared over a maximum of two test cycles. If the additional replacement sample does not meet the acceptance criteria set out in 4.3, the variety will be deleted from the reference collection.

**5 PROCEDURES FOR THE INCLUSION OF NEW COMMON KNOWLEDGE VARIETIES INTO THE REFERENCE COLLECTION**

- 5.1 When a new variety enters into common knowledge, it must be included in the reference collection if seed is available. A request for seed will be sent by the Test Centre to the maintainer of the variety and an official description will be requested from the Testing Authority which registered the variety. If an official description is provided, seed received will be assumed to be definitive if the seed conforms to the official description. Small differences in the



expression of quantitative characters are likely to be the result of recording in a different environment, and will be considered as conforming to the description. If no official description is available, seed will be assumed to be definitive.

- 5.2 If the seed does not conform to the official description, a request for definitive seed will be sent to the Testing Authority that added the variety to its national List or granted Plant Breeders Rights. This seed will then be used to validate the sample of seed from the maintainer. The standards for this validation will be as for authentication of replacement seed (See E4).

## **6 RELEASE OF REFERENCE SAMPLES FOR AUTHORISED PURPOSES**

- 6.1 Seed of reference samples can be supplied by the Test Centre, on request, to UK, EU and UPOV DUS Testing Authorities and UK, EU and OECD Seed Certification Agencies, provided the recipient is notified in writing that this material, or any material derived from it, must not be supplied to a third party or used for any other purpose than as a reference for official DUS testing or seed certification.
- 6.2 Provision of reference samples, other than in 6.1, to any other parties must be authorised by the NLSC.

**SECTION F- PROCEDURES FOR ASSESSMENT OF NEW ADDITIONAL DUS CHARACTERS****1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This Section sets out the procedures for assessment of new additional DUS characters for varieties of Beetroot entered for National List and Plant Breeders Rights tests.

**2 SCOPE**

- 2.1 These procedures apply to applications where new additional DUS characteristics which have not been approved by the NLSC are requested for use for use in DUS testing.

**3 RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1 The Test Centre is responsible for liaising with the applicant to produce a proposed procedure for the conduct of new tests. This procedure must ensure that Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability will be assessed.
- 3.2 All new additional characteristics must be authorised by the National List and Seeds Committee and the CPVO.

**4 REFERENCE VARIETIES**

- 4.1 The reference varieties will include only those varieties from which the candidate variety is not distinct, as well as other appropriate varieties for control purposes.
- 4.2 Seed of reference varieties will be supplied by the Test Centre.

**5 PROCEDURES**

- 5.1 Details of the proposed special test or assessments will be submitted to the DUS Centre to the NLSC to consider the feasibility of setting up a test acceptable to the UK Authorities. The applicant will be advised by APHA, Plant Varieties and Seeds of arrangements and costs.
- 5.2 The NLSC will consider the results of the commissioned test or trial when reaching its recommendation on the granting of Plant Breeders' Rights and/or National Listing.
- 5.4 Where the test for a character is approved by the NLSC it should be subsequently listed in Section D5.1 or 5.2 as appropriate.

**SECTION G - PROCEDURES FOR DUS DECISIONS****1 PURPOSE**

1.1 This section sets out the procedures for assessing DUS decisions on varieties of Beetroot.

**2 SCOPE**

2.1 These procedures apply to all varieties of Beetroot (*Beta vulgaris* L., ssp. *vulgaris* var. *conditiva* Alef.) entered for UK National List and Plant Breeders' Rights tests and those being tested for the CPVO or other Foreign Authorities.

**3 RESPONSIBILITIES**

3.1 The Test Centre is responsible for applying the criteria for DUS, set out in this procedure.

3.2 The Test Centre is responsible for producing the DUS reports in accordance with these procedures and for ensuring that they are in accordance with CPVO Protocols.

**4 REFERENCE VARIETIES**

4.1 Appendix I sets out which varieties are considered as reference varieties for these procedures.

**5 DISTINCTNESS**

5.1 Distinctness is normally assessed in two independent test cycles, but a candidate variety could be considered distinct after one test cycle if there are no other similar varieties. A third independent test cycle may be undertaken if distinctness is not established after two test cycles.

5.2 In accordance with associated document UPOV TG1/3 varieties can be considered distinct where they have a different expression in a grouping character.

5.3 The distinctness standard applied for qualitative characters is a difference of one state, unless otherwise indicated in Section D. For pseudo-qualitative characters the distinctness standard is a difference of 1, 2 or 3 states depending on the characteristic.

5.4 If a candidate is clearly different in a visually observed quantitative character, it is considered to be distinct, without the need for a repeated observation.

5.5 Where varieties are grown in close proximity under the same conditions, and a direct comparison can be made, a candidate is considered to be distinct if a clear (consistent and demonstrable) visual difference is observed in a quantitative character.

5.6 Where varieties are not grown in close proximity, a candidate is considered to be distinct if a difference of at least two states (see table in section D 5.1) is recorded in a visually observed quantitative character.

5.7 The standard for measured or counted quantitative characters, is, at least, a 5% ( $P=0.05$ ) significant difference in one character over two or three test cycles in a Combined Over years Distinctness (COYD) analysis. Please see associated document UPOV TGP/8/1 for details.

5.8 Where COYD cannot be applied, alternative methods should be considered.

5.9 When the number of varieties grown does not provide sufficient degrees of freedom for use of the standard COYD analysis, alternative methods should be adopted. If there is sufficient historical data (at least 5 years and sufficient degrees of freedom) then the long term LSD is applied. This LSD is calculated using up to 10 years of the most recent data. If there is insufficient historical data, the 2 x 1% method should be used.

5.10 Where the candidate has a full complement of data for two test cycles, but there is only data for control varieties for one test cycle, the use of FITC (Fitted Constant program in DUST) may be

applied. This situation may arise due to the loss of plant material within plots in any one year or where suitable control varieties were not grown in both test cycles. The standard applied for Distinctness in such cases is  $P=0.01$ .

## 6 UNIFORMITY

6.1 Uniformity is assessed for all characteristics used to establish Distinctness.

### Uniformity based on the assessment of 'Off-types'

6.2 The assessment of 'Off-types' is undertaken in the first test cycle.

6.3 Off-type plants in the glasshouse or field are identified and marked for exclusion from recording.

6.4 For cross-pollinated varieties: relative uniformity standards should be applied. However, for the characteristics "Root: shape in longitudinal section" (characteristic 17), "Root: external colour" (Characteristic 23) and "Root: prominence of rings" (Characteristic 26), a population standard of 2% and an acceptance probability of 95% should be applied. In the case of a sample size of 200 plants, 7 off-types are allowed.

6.5 For hybrids a population standard of 2% and an acceptance probability of at least 95% should be applied. In the case of a sample size of 200 plants, 7 off-types are allowed. In addition a population standard of 2% and an acceptance probability of at least 95% should be applied to clearly recognisable inbred plants. In the case of a sample size of 200 plants, 7 inbred plants are allowed.

6.6 After the variants have been excluded, the characteristics listed in Section D5 are used to assess the uniformity of the remaining plants, according to the methods described.

### Uniformity based on the assessment of general variation where no measurements are recorded:

6.7 Uniformity of continuous variation (quantitative characters) is assessed visually according to the following scale:

Score	1-5	unacceptable (1 is worst)
Score	6-9	acceptable (9 is best)

A candidate with a visual uniformity score of 6 or more is satisfactory.

### Uniformity based on the assessment of general variation where measurements are recorded:

6.8 Provided a variety meets the off-type standard, it can be considered sufficiently uniform after two or three, test cycles if, for all measured characters necessary for distinctness, the Combined Over Years Uniformity (COYU) analysis is not significantly greater than that of the reference varieties at the 0.1% ( $P=0.001$ ) significance level (see document TGP/8/1). In all cases an examination of data from individual test cycles is carried out to investigate the uniformity problem indicated by the COYU result. Decisions on whether any outlier plants (off-types) identified by data analysis should be excluded from the calculation of variety means and standard deviations, should be taken by the Test Centre.

**7 STABILITY**

- 7.1 A variety is considered sufficiently stable when there is no evidence to indicate that it lacks uniformity or fails to conform to the essential characteristics of its description in different submissions or in different tests.

**8 DUS REPORT AND VARIETY DESCRIPTION**

- 8.1 Upon completion of the DUS examination the DUS Summary report will be submitted to APHA, Plant Varieties and Seeds by the specified date. This report will specify all non-routine characteristics for establishing distinctness.
- 8.2 The final DUS report, including the full variety description, will be submitted to APHA, Plant Varieties and Seeds by the specified date. The characteristics to be used in the description are identified in Section D.

**APPENDIX 1.****REFERENCE COLLECTION VARIETIES****1 NATIONAL LISTING**

- 1.1 The DUS reference collection, for NL purposes, for any given category of plant variety comprises the following at the time when the application for the candidate is made.
- 1.2 All other candidate varieties already in DUS test in the UK, or entering testing at the same time as the candidate, including those being tested for other Member States.
- 1.3 All varieties on the UK National List and varieties on the EC Common Catalogue.
- 1.4 Varieties nominated by the authorities concerned where tests are done for other Member States.
- 1.5 Any varieties nominated by the applicant as being comparable i.e. known to be similar.
- 1.6 Any other varieties considered to be comparable i.e. known to be similar, by the DUS Test Centre

**2 PLANT BREEDERS RIGHTS**

- 2.1 The DUS reference collection, for PBR purposes, for any given category of plant variety comprises the following at the time when the application for the candidate is made.
- 2.2 All other candidate varieties already in DUS tests in the UK, or entering DUS testing at the same time as the candidate, including those being tested for other Member States or the Community Plant Variety office (CPVO).
- 2.3 Varieties protected in the UK, EC or in a UPOV Member State, which are known to be similar to the candidate variety.
- 2.4 Other available comparable varieties in common knowledge.