

**Variety register of fruit crops**

On 1 October 2012, the new Fruit Crops Directive (2008/90) entered into force. One of the requirements of this directive is, that all EU-member states have to set up a National Register of Fruit Crops. In the Netherlands, the Board for Plant Varieties is responsible for this Register. The variety register of fruit crops is part of the National Variety Register.

All varieties of fruit crops, covered by the Fruit Crops Directive, must be officially registered in one of the EU-countries (e.g. NL) or at the CPVO variety register. Only then trade of propagating material of the variety is allowed in the EU. The overview of all registered fruit varieties in the EU is published in FRUMATIS.

For inclusion in the National Variety Register, a new variety must be registered at the register of the Board for Plant Varieties. Before a variety can be registered, an assessment of the variety will be carried out and a description will be made according to CPVO protocols or UPOV guidelines. The Board for Plant Varieties determines the fees for this purpose.

The following genera and species are covered by Directive 2008/90/EC:

**Fruit crops (incl. rootstocks)**
*Castanea sativa* (Sweet chestnut)
*Citrus*
*Corylus avellana* (Hazelnut)
*Cydonia oblonga* (Quince)
*Ficus carica* (Fig)
*Fortunella* (Kumquat)
*Fragaria* (Strawberry)
*Juglans regia* (Walnut)
*Malus* (Apple)
*Olea europaea* (Olive)
*Pistacia vera* (Pistachio)
*Poncirus* (Wild lemon)
*Prunus dulcis* (*P. amygdalus*) (Almond)
*Prunus armaniaca* (Apricot)
*Prunus avium* (Sweet cherry)
*Prunus cerasus* (Sour cherry)
*Prunus domestica* (Plum)
*Prunus persica* (Peach en Nectarine)
*Prunus salicina* (Japanese plum)
*Pyrus* (Pear)
Ribes
*Rubus* (Blackberry)
*Vaccinium* (Blueberry)

The register contains almost 1,700 varieties of fruit genera and species. These are largely 'older' varieties that were already on the market before the directive entered into force in 2012. This number is fairly stable; most new varieties are registered elsewhere in the EU (notably with the CPVO) and thus there is automatic trade access in the Netherlands.

The National Register of Varieties of Fruit Crops has 2 categories:

“**A-varieties**”: Varieties of fruit crops with an official variety description. These varieties must be officially described based on CPVO-protocols (EU plant breeders’ rights), UPOV guidelines or national regulations. This means that there must be an official variety description prepared by the competent authorities.

“**B-varieties**”: Varieties of fruit crops with an officially recognised variety description. These varieties are described with a limited number of points, based on CPVO-protocols, or UPOV guidelines (TQ). The description must be recognised by a competent authority (the description may be made up elsewhere).

This category applies only to varieties marketed before 1 October 2012.

Only the “a-varieties” can be certified as propagation material by Naktuinbouw. The “b-varieties” can only be marketed as C.A.C. material.

For some old “b-varieties”, which were already certified, an exception has been made in accordance with the EU directive. More information on fruit crop certification can be found on the Naktuinbouw website.

Furthermore, Naktuinbouw can give permission for trade in varieties for the purpose of genetic diversity (the so-called 'biodiversity varieties') in accordance with the directive for national use. These are not listed in the National Variety Register.

For further questions, please contact Marco Hoffman (m.hoffman@naktuinbouw.nl).