

International Poplar Commission
Working party on Taxonomy, Nomenclature and Registration
Activity Report: July 2018- September 2020

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Introduction

The International Poplar Commission of the FAO holds the International Cultivar Registration Authorities (ICRAs) for the genera *Populus* (poplars, cottonwoods and aspens) and *Salix* (willows).

The ICRA system operates under the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* (ICNCP), and its responsibility is to ensure that each plant cultivar receives a unique, authoritative botanical name. The chief aim is to prevent duplicated uses of cultivar epithets within a genus, and to ensure that names are in accordance with the latest edition of the ICNCP. The system is a voluntary, non-statutory one and it does not grant any legal protection over the name or the plant. Legal protection should be sought through national Plant Breeders' Rights or Plant Patents. However, the registration of cultivar names should be felt by all sensible persons as a vital need, much as internationally accepted standards of any sort.

The ICRA produces and maintains lists of names, along with other relevant information about the cultivars, which are already registered in the public domain and make these lists available to the international community as a free service, without commercial interest. All individuals or institutions who intent to release a new cultivar should send an application to the IPC providing essential information regarding the origin, a synthetic description and a proposed denomination. After verifying that the proposed denomination is acceptable according to international rules and that the accompanying information corresponds to the needs of the registration, the new cultivar is then included into the International Register of Cultivars.

Activities achieved during the 2018-2020 period:

Activity 1 – Continue the update of the International Register of Populus Cultivars and The Checklist for Cultivars of Populus.

- The International Register of Populus Cultivars was updated in 2020 with five new cultivars, registrations for which were submitted in 2018. A few new cultivar registrations are currently in preparation (Green Wood Resources, US). The International Register currently maintains three hundred and sixty-three cultivar epithets.
- The Checklist for Cultivars of Populus (commercial names, synonyms or experimental codes) has been updated; it contains 488 unregistered names and 103 experimental codes (not named) entries. Thirteen new cultivars have been released and provisionally registered in the Italian National Register of Basic Materials in

2019; these clonal varieties have been selected by private companies but no request to register their epithets to the Register has been received by the IPC Working Party.

A Checklist for poplar cultivars for ornamental uses contains eighty-two cultivars (sixty of which already included into the Checklist).

- An extensive 6-year (2013-2019) report regarding the data on *Populus* cultivars was submitted to the Special Commission for Cultivar Registration of the International Society for Horticultural Sciences in March 2020. The Working Party received positive feedback from the Commission.

Activity 2 – Initiate The International Register of Salix Cultivars and continue the update of The Checklist for Cultivars of Salix.

- The International Register of Salix Cultivars was initiated in July 2020. Twenty six new cultivar names have been registered during 2018-2020 and included into The Register. The detailed registration files (cultivar descriptions/registrations, images of the herbarium standard specimens and color photos) are available at the OSF (Open Science Framework) website: <https://osf.io/6cpey/>. This website allows to upload, manage and share large files organizing them into the folder (each cultivar name represented by a separate folder). The link to The Register will be uploaded to the IPC website in preparation to the next session.
- To publicize the new registrations of *Salix* cultivar names to the widest appropriate audience a peer-reviewed manuscript “*International Registration of Cultivar Names for Salix* L. (Willow) in 2016-2020” by Y. Kuzovkina and L. Vietto was accepted and will be published in *HortScience* in the fall 2020.
- A new edition of The Checklist for Cultivars of Salix is almost completed and will be published in summer 2021. Its current version contains 968 name records. This edition will include the most recent taxonomic revisions, 113 new cultivar names with descriptions and 22 new references.
- The Virtual presentation by P. McGovern, J. Kuzovkina, R. Soolanayakanahally “IPC Online *Salix* Database Proof of Concept” was presented at the “Short Rotation Woody Crops Webinar Series” hosted by the University of Minnesota via the Next Gen Poplars project <https://sites.google.com/umn.edu/hybrid-poplar/home> on August 12, 2020. The manuscript outlining this concept is currently in preparation for the Special Issue "Growth and Development of Short Rotation Woody Crops for Rural and Urban Applications" and will be submitted by the end of 2020.
- As with *Populus*, an extensive 6-years (2013-2019) report regarding the data on *Salix* cultivars was submitted to the Special Commission for Cultivar Registration of the International Society for Horticultural Sciences in March 2020.

Activity 3 – Raise Awareness.

Effective outreach efforts to all involved in cultivar development to facilitate comprehensive compilation of international records was the focus during 2018-2020.

- In order to further raise awareness among interested parties concerning the importance of cultivar registration, the IPC Working Party on Taxonomy, Nomenclature and Registration made a presentation describing the current work and cultivar registration goals. The abstract was published in the Proceedings of the conference:

Kuzovkina, J. and L. Vietto. The International Cultivar Registration Authorities (ICRAs) for *Populus* L. and *Salix* L. Seventh International Poplar Symposium 28 October-4 November 2018. Buenos Aires, Argentina. p.26.

- A few breeders (Stig Larsson and Bo Gertsson, Sweden; Brian Stanton, Greenwood Resources, USA) contacted us with the updates on cultivar names and registrations.

Activity 4 – Maintain a network and update the portal

The Working Party continues to maintain an integrated network with breeders and outreach to all organizations involved in domestication programs, which are fundamental for development of the international database.

- In July 2020 received the National Reports (through Benjamin Caldwell). Eighteen reports were reviewed with the goal to extract information related to the new cultivars of *Populus* and *Salix*. A few countries (China, Sweden and Germany) were identified as preparing new cultivars registrations. These countries will be contacted by our Working Party next summer with the request to provide the updated records and registrations for the *Registrars*.

Program of Work for the next two years 2020-2022

Activity 1 – Continue the updates of the International Register of Populus Cultivars and The Checklist for Cultivars of Populus.

Activity 2 – Continue the updates of the International Register of Salix Cultivars and The Checklist for Cultivars of Salix.

Our goal is to get all new names into the system and makes this information available to the international community. The Poplar and Willow Checklists are valuable sources of information to inform breeders about existing names, which help to avoid duplicate names for new cultivars.

Activity3 – - Raise Awareness

The main focus during 2020-2022 to continue the direct contacts with Poplar and Willow breeders to obtain more detailed and updated information about registered and new cultivars.

The members of the Working Party remain aware of new cultivars being developed and then target the breeders about these plants once they have been selected. The Working Party will continue to focus on extracting data from the National Country reports, which will be submitted to the IPC during 2021, and contacting the countries which indicated the development of new cultivars.

To publicize the new registrations of *Populus* cultivar names to the widest appropriate audience we are planning to publish a manuscript with the new names of *Populus* cultivars in a suitable Journal, such as *Biomass and Bioenergy*.

Activity 4 – Maintain a network and update the portal

The Working Party will continue to maintain an integrated network with breeders and outreach to all organizations involved in domestication programs, which are fundamental for development of the international database.

- **Due to the expanded mission of the IPC, as per IPC Convention and the inclusion of the new plant genera which are considered to be the fast-growing trees, the Working Party will review the list of the additional plant genera and make recommendations for the mechanism suitable for thier cultivar registrations.**

The following 16 woody genera were listed as fast-growing trees of interest (extracted by Ben Caldwell from the national reports in September 2020):

Abies (Fir)
Acer (Maple)
Alnus (Alder)
Betula Alnus (Birch)
Eucalyptus (Eucalyptus)
Fraxinus (Ash)
Juglans (Walnut)
Larix (Larch)
Morus (Mulberry)
Paulownia (Paulownia)
Picea (Spruce)
Pinus (Pine)
Prunus (Cherry)
Robinia pseudoacacia (Black locust)
Quercus (Oaks)
Tilia (Linden)

- Discuss and explore the mechanism for possible interaction and collaboration with the Working Party on Domestication and Conservation of Genetic Resources to expand the network and raise the awareness about importance of cultivar registration.
- Continue production of a new series of publications '*Name Changes Alerts*'. This series of Fact Sheets translate and interpret the science of nomenclatural and taxonomic changes made by taxonomists and convey information in the language accessible to the widest possible audience.

- The Working Party internet portal was extensively updated in 2016. In summer 2021 new documents and publications will be uploaded to include the most recent materials and publications relevant to the work of the Working Party.