

PUBLIC USE DECLARATION

§ 97.700 Public interest in wide usage.

(a) If the Secretary has reason to believe that a protected variety should be declared open to use by the public in accordance with section 44 of the Act, the Secretary shall give the owner of the variety appropriate notice and an opportunity to present views orally or in writing, with regard to the necessity for such action to be taken in the public interest.

(b) Upon the expiration of the period for the presentation of views by the owner, as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, the Secretary shall refer the matter to the Plant Variety Protection Board for advice, including advice on any limitations or rate of remuneration.

(c) Upon receiving the advice of the Plant Variety Protection Board, the Secretary shall advise the owner of the variety, the members of the Plant Variety Protection Board, and the public, by issuance of a press release, of any decision based on the provisions of section 44 of the Act to declare a variety open to use by the public. Any decision not to declare a variety open to use by the public will be transmitted only to the owner of the variety and the mem-

bers of the Plant Variety Protection Board.

PUBLICATION

§ 97.800 Publication of public variety descriptions.

Voluntary submissions of varietal descriptions of "public varieties" on forms obtainable from the Office will be accepted for publication in the Official Journal. Such publication shall not constitute recognition that the variety is, in fact, distinct, uniform, and stable.

[58 FR 42435, Aug. 9, 1993, as amended at 60 FR 17190, Apr. 4, 1995]

§ 97.900 Form of official identification symbol.

The symbol set forth in Figure 1, containing the words "Plant Variety Protection Office" and "U.S. Department of Agriculture," shall be the official identification symbol of the Plant Variety Protection Office. This information symbol, used by the Plant Variety Protection Office on the seal on certificates of Plant Variety Protection, has been approved by the Office of Communications to be added to the USDA/AMS inventory of symbols. It is approved for use with AMS materials.