



United States Department of Agriculture



Dear Stakeholder,

The [Plant Variety Protection Office \(PVPO\)](#) announces the introduction of a [new lettuce form](#) created in collaboration with Naktuinbouw, the Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture. The new hybrid form was created to improve the customer experience by reducing the burden and cost of additional Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) trials that were required to collect U.S. specific characteristics.

The new hybrid form has removed the destructive sampling characteristics needed for the U.S. lettuce Exhibit C form while further aligning the United States with the test guidelines of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants. We believe applicants will find the new form easier to use and experience the changes positively.

Applicants using Naktuinbouw may see a reduction in the number of DUS trials required and a reduction in fees when applying for both EU and US protection of lettuce varieties.

Additional information is available on the [USDA Plant Variety Protection Office and Naktuinbouw Lettuce Hybrid Form Project](#) fact sheet or contact our office with any questions or comments at PVPOmail@usda.gov.

Thank you for your interest in the PVPO.

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