



United States Department of Agriculture



Dear Stakeholder,

The Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO) announces the publication of the Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Regulations final rule in the U.S. Federal Register on January 6, 2020. The final rule implements the 2018 Farm Bill amendment to add PVP protection for asexually reproduced plants. Effective immediately, PVPO accepts applications for asexually reproduced plants. You can find the final rule at <https://www.federalregister.gov/>; search for Docket No: AMS-ST-19-0004.

Highlights of the changes you will see in the final rule:

1. Additions and adjustments throughout the regulations to reflect the addition of protection for asexually reproduced plants.
2. A streamlined fee structure:
  - a. Fees for the application, examination, and certificate issuance must now be made at the time of filing the application. Appropriate refunds will be made for withdrawals and abandonments.
  - b. The cap on hourly rates for certain PVPO administrative services has been reduced from \$107 to \$97.
3. Required germplasm deposits of asexually reproduced plant varieties are delayed for three years to determine feasibility of long-term storage of these species.

The PVPO electronic application system at <https://pvpo.ams.usda.gov/> allows you to submit applications, pay fees, and track status. If you don't see your specific Objective Description of the Variety (Exhibit C) form in the system, please [E-mail](#) us so that we can create one for you.

Please note that you must first be eAuthenticated in order to log on to the ePVP System. To obtain eAuthentication, use the following link and register for a Level 1 Account: <https://identitymanager.eems.usda.gov/registration/index.aspx>. After you receive your username and password, continue to register for a Level 2 Account. Level 1 and Level 2 eAuthentication must be completed before you can register your account on the ePVP System and submit applications.

PVPO plans to offer a training webinar on how to apply for protection of asexually reproduced plants in early 2020. More information will be forthcoming. Thank you for your interest in the PVPO.

USDA, AMS, S&T Program, Plant Variety Protection Office  
1400 Independence Ave, SW - Room 4512, Mail Stop 0274  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 260-8983

[PVPO E-mail](#)

[PVPO Website](#)