

Appendix I. Towards a definition and implementation of a Decentralized European *Prunus* Collection (DEPC)

(Revised June 2003)

Purpose

To coordinate efforts of individual European countries to conserve, and make available for propagation and research, *Prunus* accessions originating in Europe or otherwise important to European horticulture, silviculture, cultural heritage or science. Each country remains responsible for its own *Prunus* genetic resources.

Composition

The European *Prunus* Collection should be a decentralized *ex situ* collection comprising appropriate accessions held by participating genebanks and available for distribution.

Accessions to be regarded initially as the European Collection accessions are those held in various European countries and accepted formally as European Collection accessions by the ECP/GR *Prunus* Working Group.

Accessions should be accepted as European Collection accessions if they are:

- important accessions from the wild, collected in Europe, representing the genetic diversity of the species
- landraces, cultivars or, exceptionally, certain selections with outstanding traits raised in Europe.

In addition there may be included from non-European origin:

- other wild accessions, cultivars and selections important for horticulture, silviculture, cultural heritage or research in one or more European countries.

Cultivars protected by Plant Breeders' Rights and items not free from quarantine pests and diseases should be included even if they cannot be distributed freely at present.

Subsequently, if several accessions of the same genotype are held, a limited number may have the European Collection designation confirmed by the ECP/GR *Prunus* Working Group, to reduce duplication of efforts.

Implementation of the decentralized collection

1. Curators to offer accessions by sending a list to the Central Database manager.
2. Central Database manager and a sub-group analyze the offers and propose them for agreement by the *Prunus* Working Group, before notify the participating genebanks concerned of the accessions that will be regarded as European Collection accessions.
3. Central Database Manager identifies European accessions held at only one site that need to be safety-duplicated in a second site and provides the list to the Working Group and the ECP/GR Secretariat for action.

Responsibilities of participating genebanks

- To provide the names (i.e. species, cultivar etc.) of the accessions they are offering as European accessions, with identification numbers where appropriate, to the European *Prunus* Database Manager.
- To endeavour to provide additional passport data, such as country of origin and status with respect to quarantine pests and diseases.

For accessions accepted into European *Prunus* Collection:

- To maintain the trees, ideally at least two per accession, or give at least two years' notice *via* the European *Prunus* Database Manager before grubbing.
- To endeavour to provide characterization data to European *Prunus* Database in accord with agreed descriptors.
- To make scion wood (e.g. two sticks) available in response to reasonable requests from within Europe, subject to the constraints of Plant Breeders' Rights and Plant Passports.

Responsibilities of European *Prunus* Database Manager

- To obtain the lists of available *Prunus* accessions and their locations from participating genebanks, together with passport data, and to make them available in a computerized version.
- To produce a list showing the number and location of accessions of each genotype. To draw attention to genotypes held at only one site (needing safety duplication).
- To cross-check and confirm with the ECP/GR *Prunus* Working Group and the participants which accessions are regarded as European Collection accessions and to annotate the database by inserting 'yes' in the field 'European *Prunus* Collection'.
- To seek characterization data of accepted accessions.
- To notify each country of any genotypes originating in that country but not held there so that the country can consider acquiring them.
- To receive and disseminate information about European Collection accessions threatened by grubbing with a view to arranging propagation and replanting.
- To update the database when informed by collection holders.

Responsibilities of the ECP/GR Working Group

- To determine the composition of the European *Prunus* Collection.
- To reexamine the Collection regularly and if needed, to update or adjust its composition.