How to Check the Appropriate Plant Variety Protection Statement on a Bulk Retail Certificate or Transfer and Resale Document (Updated Chart)

It is important to accurately represent to customers the PVP protection status of varieties sold. KCIA certification standards require that all labels and certificates contain PVP notification. After obtaining the protection status of a variety, either from KCIA or the PVP website (click here for PVP website), the correct information must appear on the label or document. Below is a guide for using that information.

0. ☐ Not a Protected Variety

If the PVP search states it is “unable to find” a variety, the indication is that PVP protection has not been applied for. This means that an application has not been received by the PVP office. It is NOT an indication that the variety owner does not intend to file for PVP protection. The variety owner has 12 months to apply for PVP. The PVP website should be checked regularly to see if PVP has been applied for.

Varieties that are not protected by PVP may be protected by other contract and licensing agreements.


In cases where distribution for testing or increasing a new variety occurs prior to PVP application, this statement offers protection. The intent is to protect the variety until application can be made.


The PVP office has received application for the variety in question

3. ☐ Unauthorized Propagation Prohibited – U.S. Variety protection Applied For Specifying That Seed Of This Variety Is To Be Sold by Variety Name Only As A class Of Certified Seed

The variety is question has been applied for and is requesting Title V protection specifying that it must be sold as a class of certified seed.

4. ☐ Unauthorized Propagation Prohibited – U.S. Protected Variety

The variety in question has received protection under the PVPA as amended in 1994. It must be sold by variety name but does not require certification. Varieties for which protection was applied for after April 14, 1994 receive protection under the more stringent 1994 amended version of the PVPA.

5. ☐ Unauthorized Propagation Prohibited – to Be Sold by Variety name Only As a Class of Certified Seed – U.S. Protected Variety

The variety in question has received protection under the PVPA as amended in 1994. It must be sold by variety name and requires certification. Varieties for which protection was applied for after April 14, 1994 receive protection under the more stringent 1994 amended version of the PVPA.

The following page gives an example using actual information posted on the PVP website.
Normally, you’d click view above to see specifics such as is certified seed required, but at this writing, it doesn’t work.

Sometimes the excel download of PVP applications, accessed from the PVP office site is more reliable, also a bit more tedious to use. Below is a word-wrapped copy of the excel line for the data for Art wheat. The “Yes” would be under the “certified seed” column indicating certified seed is required.