

International Uniformity of Plant Names[®]

Marco H.A. Hoffman

Nursery Stock Research Unit, Boskoop, ND, P.O. Box 81, 2770 AC, Boskoop, The Netherlands

INTRODUCTION

The intensification of the international trade in nursery products underlines the need for uniformity in the naming of cultivated plants. The new editions of the international *List of Names of Perennials* and *List of Names of Woody Plants* together form a huge step in the right direction. The prime aim of both books is to achieve worldwide uniformity in the nomenclature of these plants. Every 5 years new editions will occur.

- *List of Names of Woody Plants* (green book) contain the preferred botanical names and most used synonyms of over 17,000 woody nursery plants.
- *List of Names of Perennials* (yellow book) contain the preferred botanical names and most used synonyms of over 14,000 perennials.
- The above two books provide the preferred botanical names and most used synonyms and trademarks.

It is most gratifying that both these reference works have been recognised by the ENA (European Nursery Association) as the European standard works on the nomenclature of nursery plants. Furthermore, the “List of Names of Perennials” has been recognised as the standard reference work by the Internationale Stauden Union (ISU) and the Perennial Plant Association (PPA) — in the United States.

Table 1. European plant names working group.

Name	Company / Institute	Country
Aldén, Mr. B. (Björn)	Bot. Garden Goteborg	Sweden
Brander, Mr. P.E. (Poul Erik)	Research Centre Aarslev Department of Ornamentals	Denmark
Leonard, Mr. B. (Bent)	Danish Growers	Denmark
Briant, Mr. A. (Andre) (Chairmen)	Andre Briant Jeunes Plantes	France
Cadic, Mr. A. (Alain)	INRA, C.R.Angers	France
Hachmann, Mr. H. (Holger)	Baumschule Hachmann	Germany
Hoffman, Mr. M. (Marco) (secretary)	Applied Plant Research Research Unit Nursery Stock	The Netherlands
Jebb, Mr. M.	National Botanical Gardens	Ireland
Sommer, Mr. N. (Niels)	Bund Deutsche Baumschulen	Germany
Räty, Mrs. E. (Ella)	Taimistoviljelijät ry	Finland
Cubey, J. (Janet)	RHS Garden Wisley	England
Sanders, Mr. W. (Willem)	KBGBBB	The Netherlands

NEW PUBLICATIONS IN 2005 WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Subtropical plants
- Indication of protection of trademarks and plant breeders right
- Under auspices of the European Plant Names Working Group (will include perennials also ISU and PPA) (Table 1)
- On-line available at website: <www.internationalplantnames.com>

STANDARDIZATION OF NOMENCLATURE IS BECOMING MORE IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- Intensification of export of plants between countries
- Efficient communication (trade and data)
- The correct name is a part of the quality of a product

GOALS FOR 2010

- One worldwide list of names (including species and cultivars of North America)

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PlantHaven Inc., 121 West Pueblo St., Suite 14, P.O. Box 3056, Santa Barbara, California
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Chairman, I felt privileged and was delighted to be asked two years ago to participate in this 2004 annual meeting of the Eastern Region, North America, of the International Plant Propagators' Society. International Plant Propagators' Society meetings are always so well planned — stimulating, educational, and always enjoyable. I hope that my contribution will rise to the occasion!

I must declare at the outset PlantHaven's interest in the patented plants that we represent, some of which I will be presenting today. Having said that, we love what we do since our work requires us to work closely with the most creative breeders and the most enterprising growers. Ultimately, our role and purpose is to apply our skills and resources to assist both of these groups to exploit and share the profit potential of great new plants.

We are able to do this because the U.S.A. has a plant patent system, which, importantly, was not created simply for the breeder. In general, countries provide systems of patent protection in order that all their industries and markets will be assured of continuing innovation, and thereby grow and be competitive on the world stage.

But our industry has not always been so fortunate. Throughout the years of his pioneering and prodigious plant breeding work in Santa Rosa, California, Luther Burbank lobbied Congress for equal protection for plant breeders as for any inventor of useful new products, but without success. As Burbank famously said, "A man can patent a mousetrap or copyright a nasty song, but if he gives to the world a new fruit that will add millions to the value of the Earth's annual harvests he will be fortunate if he is rewarded by so much as having his name connected with the result" (Luther Burbank 1849-1926).

Finally, in 1930, under pressure from Burbank's friends Henry Ford and Thomas Edison, Congress passed the U.S.A. Plant Patent Act — the first system in the