

## **Guide lines and rules for composing grex, group and cultivar names. Summary of ICNCP rules and guidelines for Grex and Cultivar epithets.**

The names of cultivated plants are governed by the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* (ICNCP). A summary of the main points is included below to assist those who need to create new names for registration or publication. Note that the ICNCP now supersedes the *Handbook on Orchid Nomenclature and Registration* 4<sup>th</sup> ed. of 1993.

### **Basic rules**

Epithets always start with a capital letter.

Not to exceed 30 characters (there is no maximum number of words or syllables)

Not to consist solely of a single letter or solely of numbers (but may include a number, e.g. Super 5.)

Not to be a Latin word(s) unless in common usage. For example: *Aurora Borealis*, *T. rex*, *Lignum Vitae* may be used.

Does not have to be an existing word, but may be a novel invention, e.g. Taisuco.

May include initials when derived from a person's name, e.g. H.P. Norton.

(Note: Epithets based on the name of a living person should be with their consent.)

May include the words: cross, mutant, seedling, inverse, reciprocal cross.

May not contain the words: cultivar, grex, group, hybrid, maintenance, mixture, selection, sport, series, strain, improved, transformed.

May include the punctuation marks ‘, ! . - / \ but may not include other punctuation marks, symbols or fractions. Thus ‘Million Dollars’ would be acceptable, while ‘\$1,000,000’ or ‘\$Million’ would not; similarly ‘Half Pint’ is acceptable, but ‘1/2 Pint’ is not.

Must not repeat the genus or grex name, either in Latin or vernacular form. E.g. *Oncidium Mendenhall* ‘Mendenhall’; a hybrid *Disa* named for Penelope Disa Krige, was registered as *Disa Penelope D. Krige* gx, in order to avoid repetition of *Disa*.

### **Recommendations, in addition to above rules.**

Epithet should be as short as is practical.

Epithet should not be vague descriptive term such as ‘Yellow’, or ‘Large White’.

Epithet should not be misleading, e.g. ‘Richard’s Orange’, for a blue flowered plant raised by someone called June.

Epithet should not cause offence.

### **Repetition of epithets**

An epithet should not be repeated within a denomination class.

For grexes this means avoiding repetition within a genus or selected breeding group.

For orchid cultivars, not repeating the epithet within a species or grex. (Cultivars in non-orchid families should not be repeated in a genus.)

Where a cultivar epithet is repeated within a genus, the grex or species epithet must be given with the cultivar epithet as part of the cultivar name. For example: *Odontoglossum crispum* ‘L. Sander’ or *Odontoglossum Ardentissimum* ‘L. Sander’ not *Odontoglossum* ‘L. Sander’ as this is ambiguous.

In cases where a cultivar epithet is accidentally repeated within a grex or species, or a grex epithet is repeated within a genus or selected breeding group, then the duplicated

epithets may be distinguished by adding the year of establishment or name of the originator or registrant in parentheses.

Cultivar example: *Miltoniopsis vexillaria* 'Purpurea' (1885), and *Miltoniopsis vexillaria* 'Purpurea' (1889). The 1889 epithet was originally published as 'Purpureum' possibly to avoid confusion, however the cultivar epithet must agree with the gender of the genus and hence has to be changed to 'Purpurea'.

Grege example: *Sc.* [Lc.] Amoena (1887) = *C. loddigesii* x *S.* [L.] *perrinii*, and *Sc.* [Lc.] Amoena (1902) = *C. wallisii* x *S.* [L.] *harpophylla*.

### **The use and establishment of Groups within a grege.**

A Group may be established within an existing grege to provide a name for a remake of a grege where the parents of the hybrid are insufficiently different to qualify for registration as a new grege, such as a remake of a *Paphiopedilum glanduliferum* hybrid using *Paphiopedilum praestans* in its place. For example, x *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* [Blc.] Marie Lemon Stick grege was established for the progeny of *Rlc.* Young Kong 'Sun' x *Rlc.* Erin Kobayashi 'Lahaina Gold'. Sometime later the grege was re-made using an unnamed clone of *Rlc.* Young Kong grege and *Rlc.* Erin Kobayashi 'Amy Chen' as pollen parent. The resultant seedlings produced dark green flowers with a red/lavender lip and were named Francis Suzuki Group to distinguish them from the original version of Marie Lemon Stick grege. The name of this resulting Group population or segregate with the grege should be written *Rlc.* Marie Lemon Stick gx Francis Suzuki Gp and a cultivar or clonal epithet may be added to distinguish an individual within the population.

A grege may contain any number of Groups, but these Groups MUST be defined by description, and not just parentage as for a grege.

A Group name may be established for a reciprocal cross where it is desirable for it to be distinguished by name.

A Group may also be established for any assemblage of individuals within a grege with characters in common, for example, flower colour, variegation, or flowering time.

### **Reference.**

Brickell, C.D. *et al.* (2009) *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* (ICNCP) 8<sup>th</sup> ed. *Scripta Horticulturae* Number 10. ISHS, Belgium.