

# APPLICATION FORM FOR REGISTERING A CONIFER CULTIVAR NAME

## NOTES FOR GUIDANCE IN COMPLETING THE FORM

### NORTH AMERICAN APPLICATIONS ONLY

#### *Introduction*

The Royal Horticultural Society was appointed International Registration Authority (IRA) for Conifers by the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) in 1962. The IRA system aims to promote stability within the naming of cultivated plants by promoting lists of authenticated names in a number of important groups of plants which are commonly cultivated.

The Registration Form is designed to bring together all the information that the IRA requires so that the Registrar may ensure that a new cultivar name is properly established within the rules as laid down in the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* (ICNCP). This *Code* is issued at periodic intervals under the authority of the International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants, a body which itself lies under the aegis of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS).

The *Code* is available in North America from Balogh Scientific Books, 1911 North Duncan Road, Champaign, Illinois 61821, USA (<http://www.balogh.com>). E-mail: [balogh@balogh.com](mailto:balogh@balogh.com), Fax: (217) 355-9413, Telephone: (217) 355-9331 or 355-1704.

The term "Conifer" has a number of meanings in different parts of the world, but for the purposes of registration, the following genera are considered to be Conifers under the IRA scheme: *Abies* Mill., *Acropyle* Pilg., *Actinostrobus* Miq., *Afrocarpus* (J. Buchholz & N. E. Gray) C. N. Page, *Agathis* Salisb., *Amentotaxus* Pilg., *Araucaria* Juss., *Athrotaxis* D. Don, *Austrocedrus* Florin & Boutelje, *Austrotaxus* R. H. Compton, *Callitris* Vent., *Calocedrus* Kurz, *Cathaya* Chun & Kuang, *Cedrus* Trew, *Cephalotaxus* Siebold & Zucc. ex Endl., *Chamaecyparis* Spach, *Cryptomeria* D. Don, *Cunninghamia* R. Br., *Cupressocyparis* Dallim. (*Chamaecyparis* Spach × *Cupressus* L.), *Cupressus* L., *Dacrycarpus* (Endl.) de Laub., *Dacrydium* Sol. ex G. Forst., *Diselma* Hook. f., *Falcatifolium* de Laub., *Fitzroya* Lindl., *Fokienia* A. Henry & H. H. Thomas, *Ginkgo* L., *Glyptostrobus* Endl., *Halocarpus* Quinn, *Juniperus* L., *Keteleeria* Carrière, *Lagerstrobus* Quinn, *Larix* Mill., *Lepidothamnus* Phil., *Libocedrus* Endl., *Manoao* Molloy, *Metasequoia* Hu & W. C. Cheng, *Microbiota* Kom., *Microcachrys* Hook. f., *Microstrobus* J. Garden & L. A. S. Johnson, *Nageia* Gaertn., *Neocallitropsis* Florin, *Nothotsuga* Hu ex C. N. Page, *Papuacedrus* H. L. Li, *Parasitaxus* de Laub., *Phyllocladus* Rich. & Mirb., *Picea* A. Dietr., *Pilgerodendron* Florin, *Pinus* L., *Platycladus* Spach, *Podocarpus* L'Hér. ex Pers., *Prumnopitys* Phil., *Pseudolarix* Gordon, *Pseudotaxus* W. C. Cheng, *Pseudotsuga* Carrière, *Retrophyllum* C. N. Page, *Saxegothaea* Lindl., *Sciadopitys* Siebold & Zucc., *Sequoia* Endl., *Sequoiadendron* Buchholz, *Sundacarpus* (J. Buchholz & N. E. Gray) C. N. Page, *Taiwania* Hayata, *Taxodium* Rich., *Taxus* L., *Tetraclinis* Mast., *Thuja* L., *Thujopsis* Siebold & Zucc. ex Endl., *Torreya* Arn., *Tsuga* Carrière, *Widdringtonia* Endl., *Wollemia* W. G. Jones et al.

Please fill in the form carefully. The following notes are designed to be helpful for those not familiar with what is required. If you need to include extra papers with the form, please ensure that they are attached together and that each separate sheet is labeled with the proposed name of the cultivar so they do not become displaced in filing.

Registrants will be rewarded by gift of a Registration Certificate for each name formally registered and, in addition, if a new name has not been published previously they will be permanently cited as author of the registered name.

If there are questions on this form for which you are not certain that you know the answer, **do not be put off returning it**: if there are important points to be answered which are essential, the Registrar will contact you later.

For any further assistance or advice, the Registrar's Regional Representative, Mr. Richard A. Larson of the American Conifer Society, should be contacted at the address at the end of these notes, or he can be e-mailed at [ralarson@dawesarb.org](mailto:ralarson@dawesarb.org). Alternatively, the International Registrar may be contacted directly in Surrey, UK (address at the end of these notes) or by e-mail at [sharonmcdonald@rhs.org.uk](mailto:sharonmcdonald@rhs.org.uk).

## **PART 1: THE NAME OF THE CULTIVAR**

- Item 1: Write here the Latin name of the genus. Example *PINUS* or *ABIES*. Do not write FIR or PINE as these words may lead to confusion.
- Item 2: If you know which species or other taxon to which your cultivar belongs, write it here. Example: *P. SYLVESTRIS* or *P. STROBUS* where the genus under item 1 is *PINUS*.
- Item 3: Write the proposed name (technically, the epithet) of your cultivar. Example: 'Moonlight Parade'. Use a mixture of capital and lower case letters and include any diacritical signs such as the e acute (é) or u umlaut (ü) if these signs form part of your proposed name. Be careful where you insert any apostrophes and do not include any words banned by the ICNCP. If your proposed name is in a non-roman script, such as Japanese, Cyrillic or Hebrew, add the romanized transliteration according to the standards laid down in the ICNCP.
- Item 3: This is where you, the Registrant filling in this form, give your details. Please fill in all your personal address details etc., which will not be published (apart from your mailing address) but which are essential if the Registrar needs to ask further questions from you about registering your proposed name.
- Item 4: The Originator is the person who first recognizes that a new cultivar has particular merit that is of value; please give his/her full address, and for the date originated, please state as exactly as possible when the worth of the cultivar was recognized by the Originator. The year will suffice.
- Item 5: The Nominant is that person who first suggests or coins a new name for the plant, even if it is not formally named as such. If the Nominant is not the Originator, give his/her name - if it is the same person, simple write AS ORIGINATOR.
- Item 6: Very often, new cultivars are not introduced into circulation or even commerce by the Originator but by a nurseryman or other enthusiast who may be termed the Introducer. Please supply details of that person and when the cultivar was introduced or distributed. This may be several years after origination.
- Item 8: If you are registering a name on behalf of an employer or other organization, fill this in so that their details will be recorded in the Register.
- Item 9: We ask this question to be certain that the Originator has no objections to the proposed name and this also acts as a prompt to see if the Originator has knowledge of other names being used for the same cultivar.
- Item 10: The Registrar needs to know if the name has appeared in some other publication previous to your application since this helps determine the Author of a cultivar name. If the name has appeared in a printed work such as a nursery catalogue, the Author will be that person credited with writing the catalogue. If the name has not been previously published, the Author will be you the Registrant, as long as the name is not published in a work which is not accredited to you between the time of receiving the Registration Form and formal publication of the name by the Registrar.
- Item 11: It is asked that if you know that the name has been established in another printed work, you either send a copy or photocopy the relevant pages for the Registrar so that he can be certain that the name does not have prior use. Please, when copying the pages, include the title page of the printed work and the page upon which its publication date appears.
- Item 12: If a cultivar has received a patent or breeder's rights under some legal process such as provided for under various national and international statutory provisions, the name (often called the "variety denomination" by these agencies) as provided by the Originator or his agent and as approved by the agency for the purposes of such rights is always to be taken as the cultivar name. These names are fixed by statutory provision and an IRA is not in a position to alter these names in any way whatsoever. The Registrar must be advised of these special cases.

- Item 13: Only the first National Authority needs to be cited here - under international treaty, the same cultivar being granted similar rights in other countries will normally carry the same “variety denomination”.
- Item 14: In some parts of the world, a nurseryman or other trader will attempt to change a name if he/she finds that the cultivar name is unsuitable for marketing reasons. Please indicate if you know of such names so that potential confusion may be avoided.
- Item 15: It would be useful if as much information as possible can be provided for the Registrar to record. Sometimes, different trade designations are used in different countries.
- Item 16: Trademarks are sometimes used instead of the full name of a plant for marketing reasons. Trademarks which have been formally registered by a National Trademark Authority are indicated by using the international sign ®.
- Item 17: Trademarks which have not been formally registered, yet which are self-claimed by a person or organization are indicated by using the sign ™.
- Item 18: Please list both registered and self-claimed trademarks if you know these have been applied to the cultivar whose name you are registering. If you can, state the authority and grant number for registered marks as this will enable the Registrar to check their status.
- Item 19: Some people - especially famous people - see their names as part of their personal property and need to be asked if they mind a plant being named after them. Before publishing such a name for the first time, a Registrar may need to check that such an act does not offend, and that the Registrar’s office would not be subject to litigation by such aggrieved parties.
- Item 20: If your name is based on some strange word(s) or deliberately misspelled word(s), an explanation here will save rectifying spelling errors later.
- Item 21: It is becoming common practice to supply a plant or piece of a plant of the cultivar which may be turned into an herbarium specimen for safe keeping by a recognized herbarium. Please indicate if you have done so.
- Item 22: So that a record may be made of the whereabouts of Standards and any duplicate specimens, please indicate which herbarium these will be found in. If you are sending material with this application, fill in the answer box with the word “Enclosed”.

## **PART 2: HISTORY OF THE CULTIVAR**

- Item 23: If the plant was found in the wild, it is helpful to indicate as exactly as possible where it was found so as to avoid the duplication if two people find the same plant at different times, each person coining a different name. In conifers, this has been known to happen for witches’ brooms.
- Item 24: It would have been the Originator who selected the plant(s).
- Item 25: Only if you are certain should you state pollen and seed parent. If there is some doubt, add a question mark next to the name.
- Item 26: The raiser/hybridizer may be quite a different person from the Originator, who may only recognize a cultivar’s value many years after seed was sown.
- Item 27: Indicate if the cultivar originated as a sport from another plant.
- Item 28: State the name of the parent plant - especially if it is another cultivar.
- Item 29: This is very often the Originator in which case write AS ORIGINATOR. We need to know the year that cuttings were successfully taken.
- Item 30: Since many new plants do not develop worthwhile properties until years after being planted, it may be several years before an unnamed seedling can be judged to have particular worth. We need to know where such plants came from. If not known, enter UNKNOWN.

Item 31: List all known awards, including provisional ones, given to the cultivar even though, in some cases, the cultivar may not have been formally named at the time. Do not include awards of intellectual property rights here (see items 12 -13).

### **PART 3: DESCRIPTION OF THE CULTIVAR**

*Try to complete this section as accurately as you can, but do not worry about supplying a full botanical description unless you want to.*

- Item 32: Try to summarize the distinctive characters.
- Item 33: Name the most similar cultivar known to you.
- Item 34: You must be able to note a consistent stable character by which your cultivar may be distinguished from that in item 33.
- Item 35: Any extra descriptive information would be helpful.
- Item 36: Tick the shape most like the expected growth form. Exceptionally, if you think that the shape is intermediate between two forms, tick two boxes and comment under item 39.
- Item 37: Do not forget to state if you are using metric or imperial measurements etc.
- Item 38: Comment on any special attributes such as disease resistance or drought tolerance etc.
- Item 39: Comment on any other feature which may be of interest such as brightly-colored cones, seasonal leaf color, special means of propagation etc.
- Item 40: Finally, don't forget to sign and date the form!

Completed Registration Forms from the United States, Canada and Mexico (along with any specimens, photographs and other attached documents) should be sent to the Registrar's Regional Representative for North America who is:

MR. RICHARD A. LARSON  
The Dawes Arboretum  
7770 Jacksontown Rd., SE  
Newark, OH 43056-9380 USA

who will acknowledge receipt of your application before sending the form to the Registrar in England. Only the Registrar will be able to return the Registration Certificate to the Registrant.

*Please note:* any plant specimens you send in will be deposited and retained at the herbarium of The Dawes Arboretum and will not be forwarded to the UK.

Further information may be obtained from:

Sharon McDonald  
International Conifer Registrar  
RHS Garden, Wisley  
Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QB  
United Kingdom

Revised for the American Conifer Society, July 2011, for the North American Registrar.