



# GPC Expansion to Horticultural Sector

Updated: 01-June-2014

The GS1 Global Product Classification (GPC) Standard now supports new classification around Horticulture. It includes new GPC families, classes, and bricks to accurately classify horticultural products such as plants and flowers.

## WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR THE GPC HORTICULTURE STRUCTURE?

The GPC Horticulture structure is based on Botanical taxonomy, the most common and widely accepted way to classify living beings. Botanists around the world already agree on the division in Genus and Species, based on the work of the Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus. This is supported by modern DNA research. Taxonomy is also used in commercial processes and therefore an important addition to GS1 GPC standards.

## CAN THE SAME BRICK FOR A SPECIFIC GENUS/SPECIES COMBINATION EXIST IN TWO DIFFERENT FAMILIES?

Yes, since some products can be sold in multiple ways (for instance, as cut flowers and as potted plants) the same genus/species combination may be present in more than one family. Also some species names can be the same under different genera.

## IS THIS CLASSIFICATION BASED ON INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES?

Yes, this structure has been proposed by the horticulture industry in the Netherlands, but it is based on globally-applicable taxonomical principles. It has been aligned with other international requirements to ensure its applicability is global. The proposal is based on the Taxonomy used by the International Society for Horticultural Science's Commission on Nomenclature and Cultivar Registration, which coordinates the international cooperation and appoints all International Cultivar Registration Authorities.

## WHAT ABOUT CULTIVARS? WHY THEY ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE GPC STRUCTURE?

A cultivar (English synonym: variety) is the basic category of cultivated plants whose nomenclature is governed by an international code; published by the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). It is an assemblage of plants that (a) has been selected for a particular character or combination of characters, (b) is distinct, uniform, and stable in these characters, and (c) when propagated by appropriate means, retains those characters.

In the Netherlands alone there are some 23,000 different varieties of cultivars most of which are only slightly different from each other. Furthermore new varieties occur every day. The number of genus and species combinations is small (compared to cultivars) and rather stable. Given the huge variation that cultivars represent, they have been left out from the classification structure. Cultivars do not necessarily represent a difference based on genus and species.



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## IS THE FINAL LEVEL OF BRICK ATTRIBUTE TYPES AND ATTRIBUTE VALUES THE SAME FOR ALL CUT FLOWERS OR ALL PLANTS?

No, the characteristics of each genus and species may differ and will be determined by the business needs of end-users along the supply chain. However, for most flowers (and plants with flowers) the colour may be a crucial part of the GPC structure. Brick attribute values may also be a classification of different characteristics (e.g. not all colours from the RHS colour scheme but a classification in common colours like, red, yellow and blue). In the Netherlands the horticulture industry has developed conversion tables between RHS codes, RGB values, Common Colours, Pantone and RAL colour codes.

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROJECT?

For more information please feel free to contact:

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