

PART H—CERTIFICATES OF PLANT VARIETY  
PROTECTION

**§ 2481. Plant variety protection**

(a) If it appears that a certificate of plant variety protection should be issued on an application, a written notice of allowance shall be given or mailed to the owner. The notice shall specify the sum, constituting the issue fee, which shall be paid within one month thereafter.

(b) Upon timely payment of this sum, and provided that deposit of seed has been made in accordance with section 2422(3)<sup>1</sup> of this title, the certificate of plant variety protection shall issue.

(c) If any payment required by this section is not timely made, but is submitted with an additional fee prescribed by the Secretary within nine months after the due date or within such further time as the Secretary may allow, it shall be accepted.

(Pub. L. 91-577, title II, §81, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1551.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 2422(3) of this title, referred to in subsec. (b), was redesignated section 2422(4) of this title by Pub. L. 103-349, §4, Oct. 6, 1994, 108 Stat. 3139.

**§ 2482. How issued**

A certificate of plant variety protection shall be issued in the name of the United States of America under the seal of the Plant Variety Protection Office, and shall be signed by the Secretary or have the signature of the Secretary placed thereon, and shall be recorded in the Plant Variety Protection Office.

(Pub. L. 91-577, title II, §82, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1551; Pub. L. 103-349, §13(l), Oct. 6, 1994, 108 Stat. 3143.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-349 substituted “the signature of the Secretary” for “his signature”.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-349 effective 180 days after Oct. 6, 1994, see section 15 of Pub. L. 103-349, set out as a note under section 2401 of this title.

**§ 2483. Contents and term of plant variety protection**

**(a) Certificate**

(1) Every certificate of plant variety protection shall certify that the breeder (or the successor in interest of the breeder),<sup>1</sup> has the right, during the term of the plant variety protection, to exclude others from selling the variety, or offering it for sale, or reproducing it, or importing it, or exporting it, or using it in producing (as

distinguished from developing) a hybrid or different variety therefrom, to the extent provided by this chapter.

(2) If the owner so elects, the certificate shall—

(A) specify that seed of the variety shall be sold in the United States only as a class of certified seed; and

(B) if so specified, conform to the number of generations designated by the owner.

(3) An owner may waive a right provided under this subsection, other than a right that is elected by the owner under paragraph (2)(A).

(4) The Secretary may at the discretion of the Secretary permit such election or waiver to be made after certificating and amend the certificate accordingly, without retroactive effect.

**(b) Term**

**(1) In general**

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the term of plant variety protection shall expire 20 years from the date of issue of the certificate in the United States, except that—

(A) in the case of a tuber propagated plant variety subject to a waiver granted under section 2402(a)(1)(B)(i) of this title, the term of the plant variety protection shall expire 20 years after the date of the original grant of the plant breeder's rights to the variety outside the United States; and

(B) in the case of a tree or vine, the term of the plant variety protection shall expire 25 years from the date of issue of the certificate.

**(2) Exceptions**

If the certificate is not issued within three years from the effective filing date, the Secretary may shorten the term by the amount of delay in the prosecution of the application attributed by the Secretary to the applicant.

**(c) Expiration upon failure to comply with regulations; notice**

The term of plant variety protection shall also expire if the owner fails to comply with regulations, in force at the time of certificating, relating to replenishing seed in a public repository, or requiring the submission of a different name for the variety, except that this expiration shall not occur unless notice is mailed to the last owner recorded as provided in section 2531(d) of this title and the last owner fails, within the time allowed thereafter, not less than three months, to comply with said regulations, paying an additional fee to be prescribed by the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 91-577, title II, §83, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1551; Pub. L. 96-574, §14, Dec. 22, 1980, 94 Stat. 3350; Pub. L. 103-349, §§7, 13(m), Oct. 6, 1994, 108 Stat. 3140, 3143; Pub. L. 104-127, title IX, §913(b), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1186.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-127, §913(b)(1), (2), inserted heading, designated first sentence as par. (1), inserted par. heading, substituted “Except as provided in paragraph (2), the term” for “The term”, designated second sentence as par. (2), and inserted par. heading.

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.

<sup>1</sup> So in original. The comma probably should not appear.