
Support System for Producers of Traditional Japanese Horticultural Plants (Jplants Network) Guidelines

Our mission is to introduce Japan's outstanding traditional horticultural plants to the world and create new demand overseas. By returning the profits generated from these activities as support funds to Japanese producers and their successors, we aim to protect Japan's horticultural culture and revitalize the global horticultural market.

1. Basic System Flow

1. **Discovery & Registration:** Discovering, selecting, and registering excellent plant varieties within Japan.
2. **Global Disclosure:** Publishing information globally via our website to request support.
3. **Overseas Expansion:** Promoting sales overseas and collecting support funds.
4. **Fund Redistribution:** Returning the collected support funds to Japanese individuals and organizations (producers).
5. **Transparency:** Disclosing support status and financial reports transparently on the website.

2. Variety Selection and Information Disclosure

Led by the Jplants Network, we visit various associations and producers in Japan to explain our purpose and select plants eligible for support. The primary focus is on "Traditional Japanese Horticultural Plants."

- **General Distribution Varieties:** Excellent varieties, whether new or old, that are ineligible for plant variety registration or whose registration has expired.
- **New Varieties:** Plants not yet on the market and unregistered in Japan (information is limited to a restricted site with the goal of securing overseas patents).
- **Patent-Seeking Varieties:** Plants registered in Japan whose owners seek to obtain patents overseas.
- **One-of-a-Kind Items:** Unique specimens, such as specific Bonsai trees, where only one individual exists.
- **Public Institution Varieties:** Varieties existing exclusively in botanical gardens or public parks (made eligible for support after obtaining propagation permission).

Disclosed Information: Genus, species, variety name, photos, characteristics, propagation/supply methods, and the availability of naming rights in the destination region.

3. Naming Rights and Intellectual Property (Biological Information) Protection

To prevent the unregulated outflow of Japanese plants and to promote sales, we have established strict protection and management rules.

- **Sales Promotion via Naming Rights:** Since traditional Japanese names can be difficult to market overseas, a new Western name (Roman alphabet) may be granted and displayed alongside the Japanese name. The namer pays a designated fee (Naming fee for now: C\$500.00) to Jplants Network. Then the fee will be distributed to the relevant plant association and individual, which then verifies and approves the name.
- **Registered Trademarks:** The acquisition and management of the registered trademark fall under the namer's authority.
- **Intellectual Property Protection:** To prevent the unauthorized export and renaming of old varieties that cannot be legally registered, the use of biological information is strictly governed by our membership terms.
- **Restrictions on Breeding & Crossbreeding:** If a registered plant is used as a parent to develop a new variety and obtain a patent overseas, prior reporting and permission from the parent plant's original breeder (or association) are mandatory.
- **Prohibition of Non-Horticultural Use:** Utilizing plants for non-horticultural purposes, such as extracting medicinal components or DNA modification, requires mandatory prior reporting to the Jplants Network.

4. Membership System

All transactions require membership registration, which includes a screening process and agreement to our terms.

[Registration & Management Fees]

- **Initial Registration Fee (Lifetime Membership):** C\$200.00 (includes the first year's management fee).
- **Order/Purchase, Shipping Management, and Website Maintenance Fee:** C\$100.00/year (waived for the first year. If shipping takes more than one year, the fee applies for each subsequent year).

[Membership Types] Buyer membership has Group1 and 2 both together.

Type	Target Audience	Details & Conditions
Seller	Japanese Plant Owners / Production Orgs	Requires a referral from an existing member and screening. Limited to individuals/organizations that produce their own plants (resale brokers are prohibited).
Buyer (Group 1)	Botanical Gardens, Nurseries	Can purchase and resell registered plants. Resale to non-member wholesalers is strictly prohibited (retail and landscaper sales are permitted).
Buyer (Group 2)	Breeders	Propagation for resale is prohibited. The purpose is strictly for developing new varieties via crossbreeding or mutation. If a patent is obtained, 5% of the patent royalties must be paid as a parent plant usage fee. If you don't get the patent, you can register your new plants to Jplants network as seller. You will also get the support fund. Seller registration required.
Buyer (Group 3)	Patent Seekers	<i>(Planned stage)</i> A premium paid tier allowing access to new variety information and direct negotiation with sellers.

5. Sales Contract and Shipping Process

Jplants Network centrally manages all aspects of ordering, sales, and shipping (with full web integration planned for the future).

- **Ordering Method:** Buyers purchase a dedicated catalog and email their requested plant numbers, quantities, and import conditions to Jplants Network (info@jplants.net).
- **Prepayment & Order Confirmation:** Upon receiving an order, we check inventory and required quarantine periods. A 50% upfront payment of the plant price is required to officially confirm the order.
- **No Cancellations:** Once an order is confirmed and the producer begins the propagation process (e.g., cutting, grafting), cancellations are not permitted, and the 50% prepayment is strictly non-refundable.
- **Trade Terms:** FOB (Free on Board) Japan shipping facility. Domestic transport, bare-rooting, packing, phytosanitary inspections, certificate issuance, and forwarder fees are all billed separately.
- **Disclaimer:** Due to the living nature of the plants, there is absolutely no guarantee against mortality (failure to root/survive) after arrival. Air freight is the standard shipping method.

6. Label Handling During Sales

To help end-users (consumers) understand the support mechanism, specific display rules apply during retail sales.

- At the time of sale, a label featuring a Jplants Network-issued QR code must be attached to the product.
- Scanning the QR code links the consumer to the producer/seller's dedicated page, proving the product's authenticity and its contribution to the support fund.
- Buyers may opt to pay their support fund contributions by purchasing official label sheets directly from us (printing costs are billed separately).

7. Support Fund Mechanism and Distribution

Jplants Network membership granted producers must add a support fund surcharge (minimum C\$1.00 per plant) to their sales price to collect and return funds to Jplants Network.

[Distribution of Plant Sales Support Funds]

Recipient	Percentage
Plant Protection/Management Seller (Japan)	50%
Purchasing/Propagating Wholesaler (Buyer member)	30%
Jplants Network	20%

- Support funds are collected and settled annually (or irregularly as needed) alongside a detailed sales report.
- We are currently developing a framework to allow the right to receive support funds in Japan to be transferred to future generations and successors.

Overall financial reports and the activity status of receiving organizations will be transparently published on the website.

[Distribution of Naming Rights Fees] One time Fee C\$500.00/Plant.

Recipient	Percentage	Notes
Plant Association	50%	Plus an additional 20% if the original creator/namer is unknown.
Jplants Network	30%	For web site and database management and operations.
Creator or Namer (Original)	20%	

8. Philosophy and Future Outlook

The aging population within the horticultural industry and the unregulated overseas outflow of excellent, unpatented plant resources are global challenges. This system is designed to manage and develop the diversity of horticultural plants through a collaborative effort between the public and private sectors, partnering with plant collectors, botanical gardens, research institutions, and nurseries worldwide.

Through this initiative, we are committed to continually delivering beautiful plant varieties to enthusiasts around the globe while successfully passing the baton to the next generation of horticulturists.