

## Renaming Genes and Duplication of Gene Names in the Literature

The November 2001 issue of *The Plant Cell* includes a letter to the editor from Sheng Luan and colleagues regarding the renaming of genes and duplication of gene names in the literature. *Plant Physiology* joins with *The Plant Cell* in recognizing gene nomenclature as an important issue and fully supports adherence to convention for naming genes. The policy of *Plant Physiology* will also be changed to address this issue and to help avoid problems such as those discussed by Luan et al. As of the January 2002 issue, publication in *Plant Physiology* will require authors who are introducing new gene or protein nomenclature to submit a statement that outlines possible conflicts or confusion regarding their nomenclature and confirms that they have consulted the literature and other resources before naming their gene(s). The first published use of a gene name has priority and should be used. Authors must provide a detailed explanation for using a new or different name for a mutant, gene, or protein that has been named previously.

For *Arabidopsis* mutant genes, authors must follow the guidelines for naming genes outlined by

---

[www.plantphysiol.org/cgi/doi/10.1104/pp.900009](http://www.plantphysiol.org/cgi/doi/10.1104/pp.900009).

Meinke and Koornneef (1997) and register new mutant gene symbols with David Meinke (see <http://www.Arabidopsis.org/links/nomenclature.html>). This URL also provides other useful information and links on plant gene and protein classification.

Other resources that are available on plant gene nomenclature include

- <http://mbclserver.rutgers.edu/CPGN/Guide.html> (A Guide to Naming Sequenced Plant Genes)
- <http://www.uga.edu/~ispmb/cpgn.html> (The Commission on Plant Gene Nomenclature)
- [http://www.agron.missouri.edu/maize\\_nomenclature.html](http://www.agron.missouri.edu/maize_nomenclature.html) (A Standard for Maize Genetics Nomenclature)
- <http://www.shigen.nig.ac.jp/rice/oryzabase/basic/geneName.shtml> (Rules for Gene Symbols in Rice)
- <http://wheat.pw.usda.gov/ggpages/wgc/98/> (Catalogue of Gene Symbols for Wheat).

### LITERATURE CITED

Meinke D, Koornneef M (1997) Community standards for *Arabidopsis* genetics. *Plant J* **12**: 247–253

Natasha Raikhel  
Editor-in-Chief  
*Plant Physiology*