

July 1, 2023

Dear Euroseeds member,

The International Bremia Evaluation Board EU (IBEB-EU) has concluded that several physiological races of *Bremia lactucae* (races BI:16-28EU) are agronomically no longer relevant in Lettuce in Europe.

The IBEB-EU consists of representatives of the Dutch and French seed business associations Plantum NL and UFS, and the independent organisations GEVES/SNES and Naktuinbouw. IBEB is supported by several Bremia researchers across Europe. Lettuce breeders of Bejo, Enza Zaden, GAUTIER Semences, BASF, Rijk Zwaan, Bayer, Syngenta and Vilmorin represent the industry.

The IBEB-EU is proposing that from July 1st 2023 onwards reference to the races BI: 16-28EU is no longer made in lettuce seed catalogues and other commercial communications. Resistance claims of lettuce varieties will then only refer to BI:29-37EU and the newly to be denominated races BI:38-40EU. The IBEB-EU has prepared a press release to be distributed on July 1st 2023 (See annex).

Lettuce seed companies will be able to prepare themselves properly for this change. This proposal will change the communication of resistance claims in the market from July 1st 2023 on.

The proposal to stop communicating about races BI: 16-28EU does not change the resistance claims and the resistance test protocol for variety registration purposes (i.e. for plant breeder rights). For variety registrations the agreed races remain in place until the publication of a new CPVO protocol that integrates the withdrawal of the races BI:16-28EU.

IBEB-EU proposes the following disclaimer in seed catalogues and other commercial communications:

The races BI:16-28EU of Bremia lactucae (downy mildew in lettuce) are hardly observed in practice in Europe anymore and thus have no value for describing resistance levels to the disease. Therefore from July 1st 2023 onwards, commercial resistance claims for lettuce varieties will refer only to BI: 29EU and races with a higher number, and no longer to race BI: 16-28EU.

Kind regards,

Mathieu Pel
Chairman of the IBEB

Enza Zaden Research & Development B.V.
P.O. Box 7
1600 AA Enkhuizen
The Netherlands

Phone: +31 (0)228 350 307
Mobile: + 31 (0) 655 69 10 16