

Dear _____ :

The University of Minnesota has a long and successful history of releasing varieties and plant germplasm that support Minnesota agriculture. The University releases this plant germplasm and varieties publicly and through various licensing agreements.

The University of Minnesota is establishing a Plant License Task Force to study our plant germplasm and variety release policies. I am writing to ask you to serve on that Task Force that will make recommendations concerning University of Minnesota plant licensing agreements.

As Dean and Director of the University of Minnesota Extension Service and Director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, I will provide leadership for this Task Force and serve as chair. Task Force members will represent the:

- Minnesota Apple Growers Association
- Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers
- Minnesota Barley Growers Association
- Minnesota Crop Improvement Association
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Minnesota Farm Bureau
- Minnesota Farmers Union
- Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
- Minnesota Nursery Landscape Association
- Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
- Northern Minnesota Grass Seed Growers Association
- University of Minnesota plant breeders
- University of Minnesota Office of Patents, Technology and Marketing

You are being asked to serve representing the _____

If you are unable to serve, please suggest a representative from your organization to serve in your place.

I would like to have the Task Force named by June 15 and will appreciate receiving your response before that date. Please send your response to Shelly Tschida at stschida@umn.edu or 612-624-7480.

The first meeting of the group will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, July 7 on the St. Paul Campus in the Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics, 1500 Gortner Ave. The final report will be completed by January 15, 2007

The University of Minnesota plant germplasm and variety release programs are important to Minnesota. Since 2001, the University has entered into 166 different licensing agreements related to the growing of apples, grapes, strawberries, grains (barley, wheat, oats) grasses, soybeans, flowers and other agricultural crops. I look forward to working with you to help chart the future for this program.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Beverly Durgan
Dean and Director, Minnesota Extension Service
Dean, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station