

Grouping Accessions and Inventory



Revision Date

January 7, 2026

[Appendix A](#) contains this document's revision notes.

This guide explains five methods which are useful for grouping accessions (and inventory) in GRIN-Global. Click on any link to jump to the respective section. However, consider first reading the [table on page two](#).

- [Name Group](#)
- [Accession Inventory Group](#)
- [Inventory Maintenance Policy](#)
- [Method](#)
- [Core \(a Descriptor Group\)](#)



A major grouping method in GRIN-Global is by Crop. A curator typically designates which species are to be included (“mapped”) to the crop. (Crops can overlap in various ways.) Detailed documentation on Crops within GRIN-Global is online at <https://grin-global.org/userdocs.htm#obs>. One caveat with a crop as a grouping method for accession – until an observation has been made for the accession/inventory, the accession is not included in the crop, that is it will not be found within the GG Public Website Crop pages.

In GG, two “GROUPs” seem similar, but each was originally designed for different purposes and they function differently. The word “GROUP” is often used interchangeably and can confuse the usage. The two groups are:

- Accession Inventory Group (“**get_accession_inventory_group**”)
- Name Group (“**get_name_group**”)

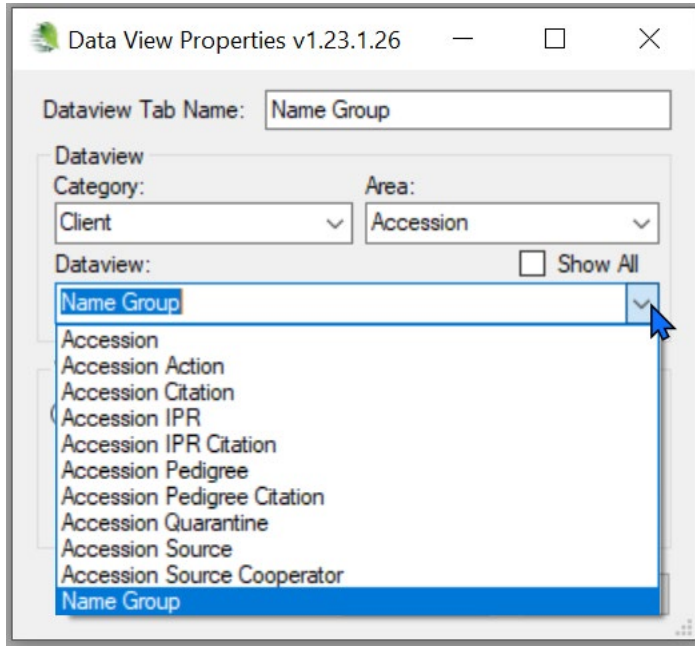
Name Groups were used in the USDA’s NPGS in their GRIN system. The Accession Inventory Group was introduced in GRIN-Global. The following table compares the two:

	<u>Accession Inventory Group</u>	<u>Name Group</u>
Database Area	Accession / Inventory	Accession
Dataview Name	get_accession_inventory_group	get_name_group
Dataview Title	Get Accession Inventory Group	Get Name Group
Group is available for <i>Web</i> Searches	Yes (when the flag is set to “visible”) using the PW Advanced Search: “Accession Group”	No but searchable within the ST/CT
Create the group name...	use the accession_inventory_group dataview; add records (...indicate if Web Visible or not)	use the name_group dataview; add records
Associate records...	map Inventory records to a group using the accession_inv_group_map table	using Accession_Inv_Name records, complete the Name Group field
Recommended Uses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish accession groups which can be found (and ordered) on the PW as a group. • Attachments to the group will be simultaneously associated with the individual inventory records in the group • Others? Use for printing labels, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A method for organizing accessions for <i>internal</i> purposes • Name Group groups plant names. An Accession Inventory Name can belong to just one group; the group usually refers to the source of the name or identifier

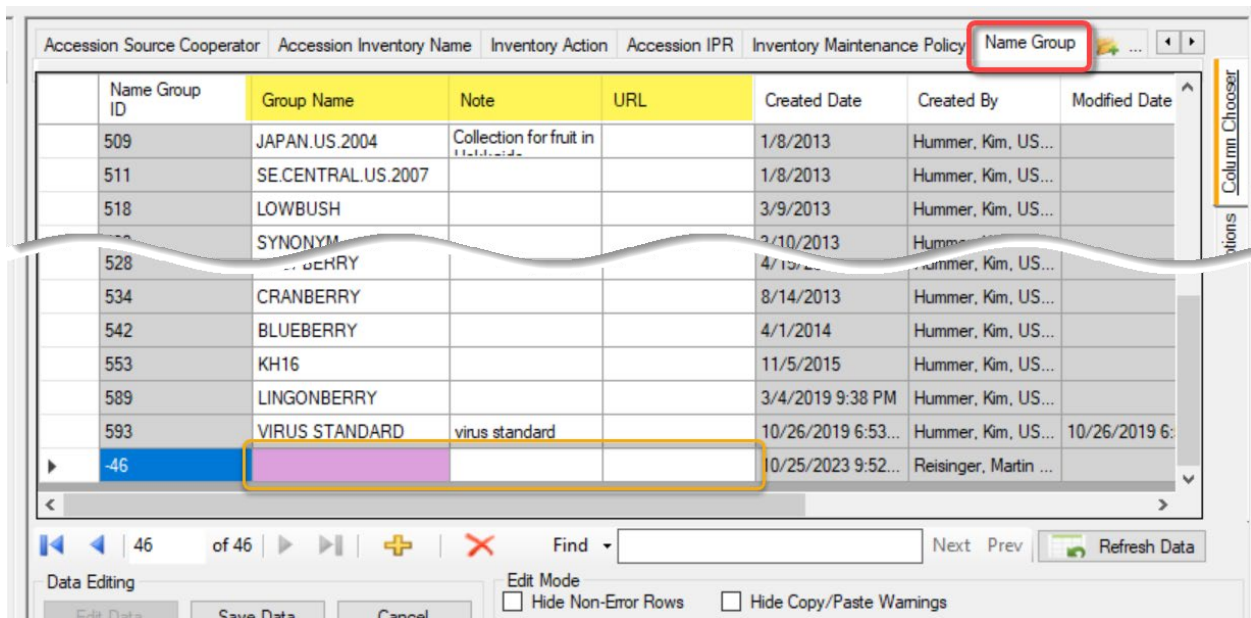
Name Groups

Create

Use the **Name Group** dataview from the **Accession** area to create or edit group names:



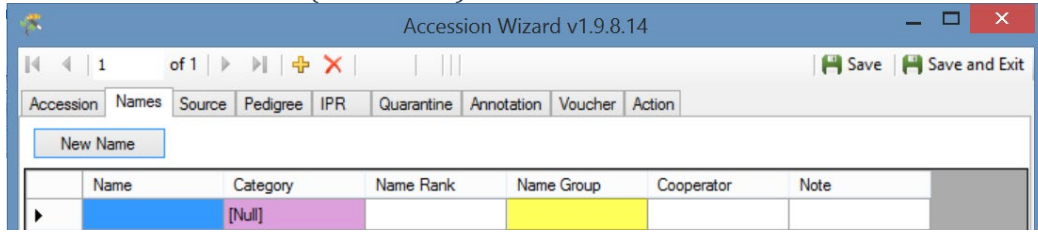
Only the **Group Name** field is required. The other two fields document the name:



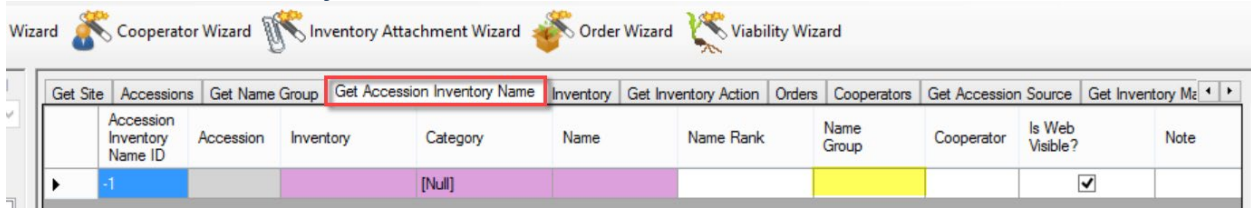
Apply the Group Name to Records

When naming an inventory record, supply a Name Group:

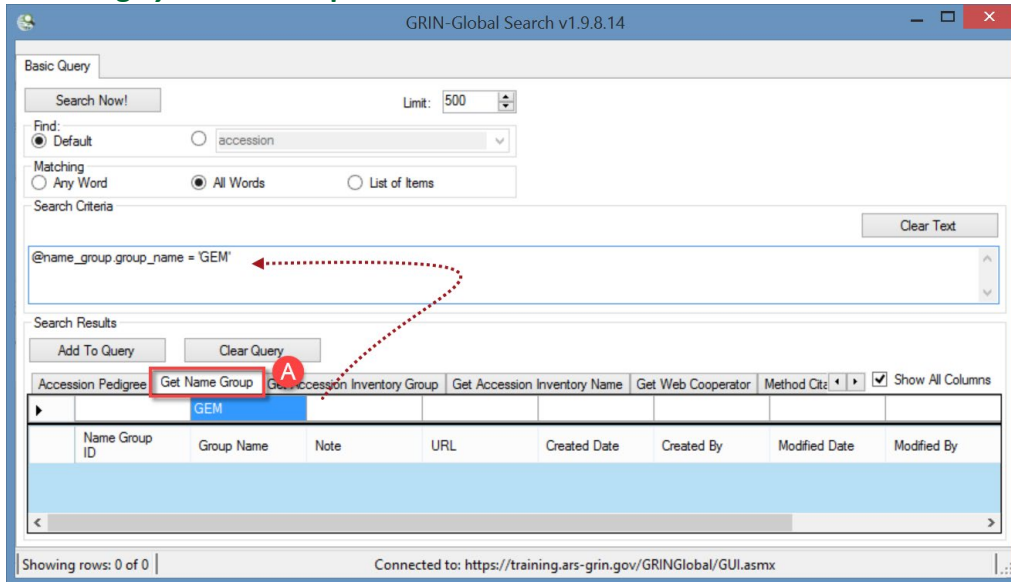
via the *Accession Wizard (Names tab)*:

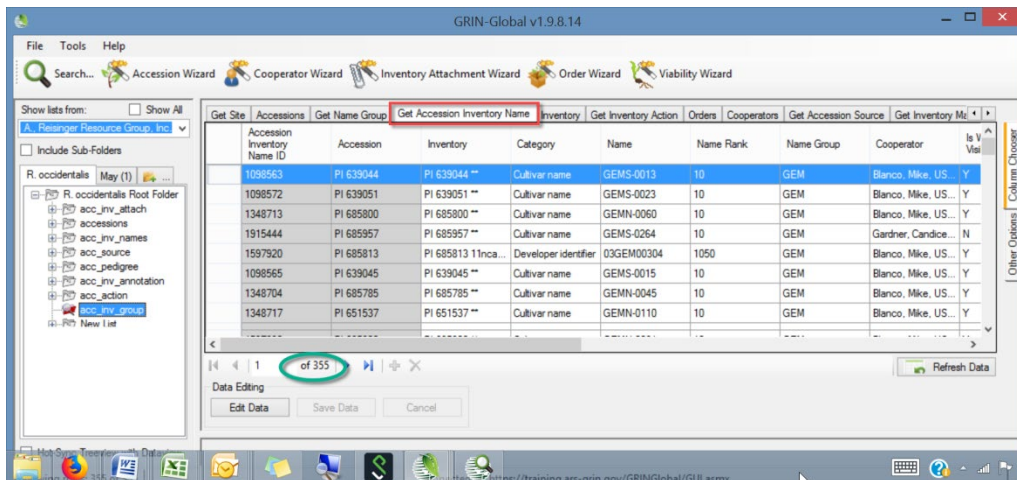
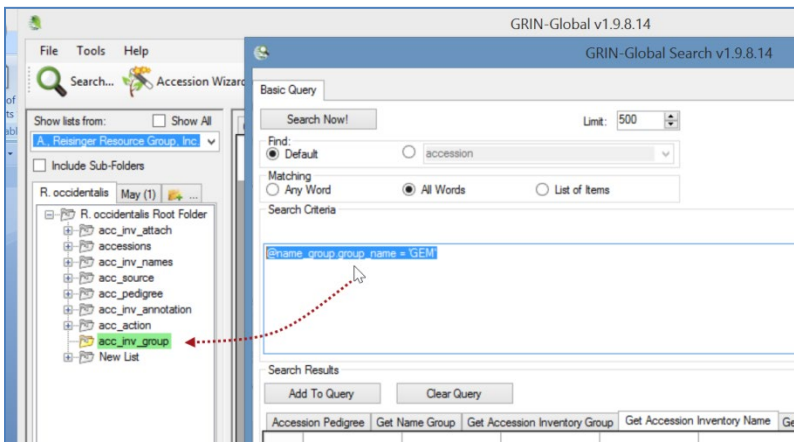
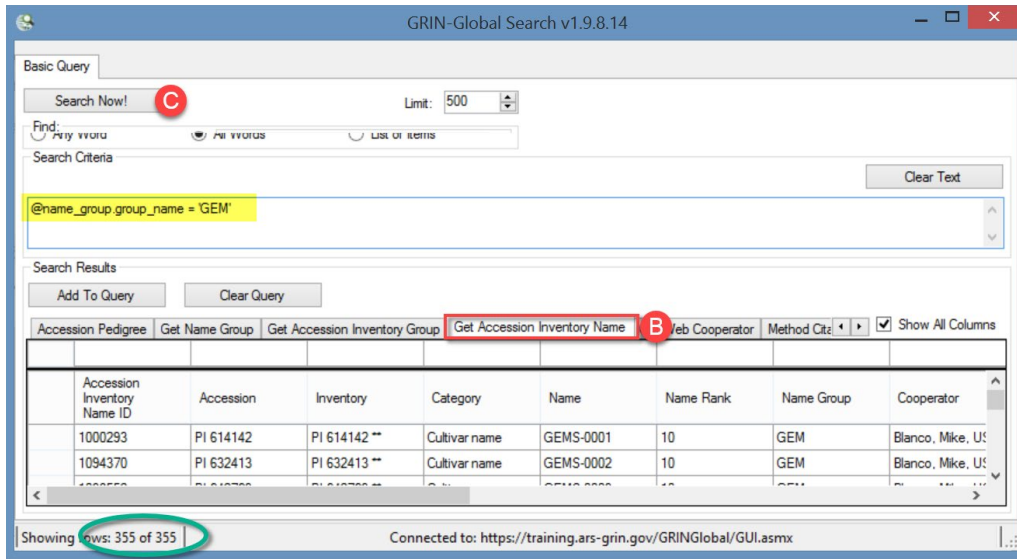


or the *Accession Inventory Name Dataview*:



Searching by Name Groups





Another Group Name Example to find "like" Accessions

The screenshot shows a software interface with a search window on the right and a list of results on the left. The search window is titled "Basic Query" and contains the following fields:

- Search Now! button
- Find: Default accession
- Matching: Any Word All Words List of Items
- Search Criteria: @name_group.group_name LIKE 'NC7%'

The search results window shows a table with the following columns: Name Group ID, Group Name, Note, and URL. The results are filtered by "NC7*". The "Get Name Group" button is highlighted with a red box. A red dashed arrow points from the search criteria to the search results table.

Accession ID	Digital Object Identifier	Accession Prefix	Accession Number
1018564	PI	PI	6192
1030635	Ames	Ames	5213
1031963	PI	PI	6496
1040453	PI	PI	6587
1031608	PI	PI	6495
1032272	PI	PI	6742
1018278	Ames	Ames	2108
1018349	Ames	Ames	2119
1032009	PI	PI	6496
1018424	Ames	Ames	2133
1406615	PI	PI	5116
1031800	PI	PI	6495
1031992	PI	PI	6496
1467225	PI	PI	5722
1031554	PI	PI	6495
1031270	Ames	Ames	5348
1031909	PI	PI	6496

Name Group ID	Group Name	Note	URL
144	NC7.CULT_REM	Old NC-7 CULT_REMS not Culivar	
145	NC7.INDIA.GRASS.PROB	Temporary Agrcd until all of this	
146	NC7.ZEA.STANDARD	Id's added by NC7 to standardize sidid	
147	NC7.DONR.COLR.IDS	These are various ID's sent NC-7 for Ames numbers.	
148	NC7.FIBR.LOTS		

Accession Inventory Groups

Accession Inventory Groups are available for searching via the Public Website by selecting an **accession group name** (the Accession Inventory Group name).



Semantics – in the Curator Tool, the reference is to “Accession Inventory Group,” but on the Public Website, an Accession Inventory Group is referred to simply as “Accession Group.”

Public Website Advanced Search page:

1

Simple Search List Search **Advanced Search** Results

Q e.g., Malus domestica Search

Available

All - Including historic (not in the NPGS collections, information only)

Limit accessions displayed to only those:

With genomic data With NCBI link

Clear All

Additional search criteria:

Accession Group 2

3

Rubus: albino black raspberries
Rubus: arctic raspberries
Rubus: black raspberries
Rubus: blackberries
Rubus: dewberries

Add Criteria

Search

Create the Accession Inventory Group Name

Use the **Accession Inventory Group** dataview (from the Accession / Inventory area); add records (supply a **Group Name**; select **Is Web Visible?** when it is to be displayed on the Public Website search page):

Cooperator Wizard Inventory Attachment Wizard Order Wizard Viability Wizard

Accession Pedigree Acc Inventory Annotation Accession Quarantine Accession Action **Get Accession Inventory Group** Acc Inventory Attach

Accession Inventory Group ID	Group Name	Is Web Visible?	Note	Created Date	Created By	Modified Date
-1		<input type="checkbox"/>		5/14/2018 3:26 ...	Reisinger, Martin ...	

Associate Inventory (or Accessions) to an Accession Inventory Group

Use the **Accession Inventory Group Map** dataview; add records:

Accession Inventory Group Map ID	Inventory	Accession Inventory Group	Note	Created Date	Created By	Modified Date
1005189	PI 604625 **	Rubus: black raspberries		4/3/2018 9:48 PM	Hummer, Kim, US...	4/4/2018 8:30 PM
1005190	PI 604630 **	Rubus: black raspberries		4/3/2018 9:48 PM	Hummer, Kim, US...	4/4/2018 8:30 PM
1005201	PI 604635 **	Rubus: black raspberries		4/3/2018 9:48 PM	Hummer, Kim, US...	4/4/2018 8:30 PM
1005202	PI 684807 **	Rubus: black raspberries		4/3/2018 9:48 PM	Hummer, Kim, US...	4/4/2018 8:30 PM
1005203	PI 684803 **	Rubus: black raspberries		4/3/2018 9:48 PM	Hummer, Kim, US...	4/4/2018 8:30 PM
1005204	PI 684806 **	Rubus: black raspberries		4/3/2018 9:48 PM	Hummer, Kim, US...	4/4/2018 8:30 PM
102				5/14/2018 4:18 ...	Reisinger, Martin ...	

Because of GG's mapping capabilities, it is possible to include inventory records in more than one group.

Accession Inventory Group Attach Dataview

In release 1.21.10.4, the Attachment Wizard was programmed to accept attachments to Accession Inventory Groups.

Attachment Wizard v1.25.1.21

File

Attachment Type

Accession Inventory Accession/Inventory Group Order Request Method

Crop Crop Trait Crop Trait Code Taxonomy Family Taxonomy Genus Taxonomy Species

Save Save and Exit

View Existing Attachments Batch Files...

View

Large Small List Tile Details

Attachments

Maize.Inc.Ames.GH.2003.OB1

- accession_inv_group_attach/Maize.Ames.GH.2003.C
- accession_inv_group_attach/Maize.Ames.GH.2003.C
- accession_inv_group_attach/Maize.Ames.GH.2003.C
- accession_inv_group_attach/Maize.Ames.GH.2003.C
- accession_inv_group_attach/Maize.Ames.GH.2003.C
- accession_inv_group_attach/Maize.Ames.GH.2003.C

2002-2003GHharvest.xls 2002-2003GH root volume.xls GH order

2002-2003GH project.doc 2002-2003GHmap.xls Teo Han

Form View Grid View

Accession Inv Group Attach ID	Accession Inventory Group	Virtual Path	Thumbnail Virtual Path	Sort Order	Title
59	Maize.Inc.Ames...	accession_inv_gr...			
60	Maize.Inc.Ames...	accession_inv_gr...			

Inventory Maintenance Policy



Inventory Maintenance Policies are explained in detail in the online Inventory guide at https://www.grin-global.org/docs/gg_inventory.docx

In the Curator Tool, use an Inventory Maintenance Policy or Method to filter records. Several different approaches can be used.

Drag Maintenance Names to a CT Folder

In the Search Tool, find the desired policy name(s) in the **Inventory Maintenance Policy** dataview, and then drag the records to a folder in the Curator Tool:

The screenshot shows the Curator Tool interface with a list of inventory records. The 'Inventory' column is highlighted. The GRIN-Global Search interface is overlaid, showing a search query: '@inventory_maint_policy.maintenance_name LIKE 'nc7%'. The search results table shows three records: 55 (NC7-amaranth), 56 (NC7-brassica), and 57 (NC7-celosia). A red dotted arrow points from the search results to the Curator Tool's list panel.

Inventory ID	Inventory Prefix	Inventory Number
1211855	PI	182923
1211863	PI	182924
1206400	PI	194904
1210654	PI	169060
1211280	PI	169074
1207545	PI	169076
1207553	PI	169077
1211285	PI	169079
1211289	PI	169081
1211296	PI	169082
1207561	PI	169085
1211316	PI	169089
1211334	PI	169093
1211342	PI	169094
1211348	PI	169095
1211353	PI	169096
1211360	PI	169097

Inventory Maint Policy	Maintenance Name	Form Type	Quantity On Hand Units
55	NC7-amaranth	SD	count
56	NC7-brassica	SD	count
57	NC7-celosia	SD	count

The List Panel displays the objects for the maintenance names, and in the Curator Tool's datagrid you can switch between dataviews, such as inventory or accessions, to see related records. For example, in this case, the list of inventory records shown in the background all were created with one of the three maintenance names listed under **New List (4)**. (Use a more meaningful list name than this!)

Drag the Code to Build a Dynamic Folder

You can create a dynamic folder, that uses code based on an Inventory Maintenance Policy name. An advantage of this method is that you can easily edit the properties and replace the policy name as

desired. (2nd screen below)

The screenshot shows the GRIN-Global v1.9.8.14 application. The main window displays a table of inventory items with columns for Inventory ID, Inventory Prefix, Inventory Number, Inventory Suffix, Inventory Type, Accession, Inventory Maintenance Policy, and Inventory Maintenance Site. A search window titled 'GRIN-Global Search v1.9.8.14' is open, showing a search query: '@inventory_maint_policy.maintenance_name = 'NC7-brassica''. The search results are displayed in a table below the search window. A red arrow points from the search criteria to the search results table. A red box highlights the 'Inventory Maintenance Policy' column in the main table, and a red box highlights the search results table. A red box highlights the search criteria text. A red box highlights the search results table. A red box highlights the search criteria text. A red box highlights the search results table.

Inventory ID	Inventory Prefix	Inventory Number	Inventory Suffix	Inventory Type	Accession	Inventory Maintenance Policy	Inventory Maintenance Site
1211855	PI	182923	uuncau01	SD	PI 182923	NC7-brassica	NC7
121186					82924	NC7-brassica	NC7
120640					94904	NC7-brassica	NC7
121065					69060	NC7-brassica	NC7
121128					69074	NC7-brassica	NC7
120754					69076	NC7-brassica	NC7
120755					69077	NC7-brassica	NC7
121128					69079	NC7-brassica	NC7
121128					69081	NC7-brassica	NC7
121129					69082	NC7-brassica	NC7
120756					69085	NC7-brassica	NC7
121131					69089	NC7-brassica	NC7
121133					69093	NC7-brassica	NC7
121134					69094	NC7-brassica	NC7
121134					69095	NC7-brassica	NC7
121135					69096	NC7-brassica	NC7
121135					69097	NC7-brassica	NC7

The screenshot shows the 'Treeview Item Properties v1.9.8.14' dialog box. It has three sections: 'Sorting Options', 'Naming Options', and 'Dynamic List Options'. The 'Dynamic List Options' section is expanded, showing 'Resolve To:' set to 'Default' and 'Dynamic Folder Search Criteria:' containing the query '@inventory_maint_policy.maintenance_name = 'NC7-brassica''. The 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons are at the bottom.

Method

The Method dataview accesses the table of methods and procedures. One example of methods is those used in determining the crop specific attributes of the germplasm. Each environment used in an evaluation should have its own method record.

Method ID	Name	Geography	Material or Method Used	Elevation (meters)	Latitude	Longitude
119	SUNFLOWER.SUN.OIL.WLD.91	United States, N...	Oil concentration of accessions from 1991 exploration. Analyses were performed in 1991 on seeds from the original population. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) using 2 ml of dried seeds from wild Helianthus species (cultivated H. annuus uses 40 ml). This methodology is an acceptable			
-2						



A **Method** item in a CT list is an excellent way to filter records:

The screenshots show a software interface with a left-hand navigation pane and a main data table. The navigation pane includes a tree view with folders like 'Jan Root Folder', 'Orders', 'MARaccs', 'New List (2)', 'MaintPol Filters', 'HUM-SEED', and 'Method Filters'. The 'Method Filters' folder is expanded, showing 'SUNFLOWER.SUN.OIL.WLD.91' and 'HUM-SEED'. The main table displays a list of accessions with columns for Accession ID, Accession Prefix, Accession Number, Accession Suffix, Taxon, and Name. The 'Accessions' tab is selected, and the table shows a list of accessions filtered by the selected method.



Public Website users can also search accessions by Method. To do so, the user must select a Crop. The Crop page has a Methods link:

The screenshot shows a public website interface with a navigation menu at the top containing links for 'Version: 2.0.3.0', 'Accessions', 'Descriptors', 'Reports', 'GRIN Taxonomy', 'GRIN', 'Help', 'Contact Us', and 'Your Profile'. Below the navigation menu, there is a green header for 'APPLE'. The main content area contains a description of the Apple (Malus) accessions and a navigation menu at the bottom with links for 'Descriptors', 'Species', 'Citations', and 'Methods'. The 'Methods' link is circled.

APPLE

Methods

- 95KAZ
- 97CHINA
- APPLE.CORE
- APPLE.FIREBLIGHT
- APPLE.MORPHOLOGIC.00
- APPLE.MORPHOLOGIC.01
- APPLE.MORPHOLOGIC.02
- APPLE.MORPHOLOGIC.03
- APPLE.MORPHOLOGIC.04

APPLE.MORPHOLOGIC.04 [View for download](#)

Evaluation location: , United States

Trait(s) evaluated

CALPERSIST	344 Accessions
CALYXBASIN	344 Accessions
FRTFLSHCOL	343 Accessions
FRTFLSHFLA	330 Accessions
FRTFLSHFRM	330 Accessions
FRTFLSHOXI	343 Accessions
FRTGRNDCOL	344 Accessions
FRTLENGTH	344 Accessions
FRTOVERCOL	342 Accessions
FRTRUSSET	341 Accessions
FRTUSCLOG	330 Accessions

Accessions evaluated for FRTLENGTH in study APPLE.MORPHOLOGIC.04

Accessions Dataset for Download

Excel Show 50 rows

Showing 1 to 50 of 348 entries Search:

Accession	Name	Frtlength	Observation details
GMAL 3536 .b	KAZ 93-09-02	37	
GMAL 3544 .n	KAZ 93-13-01	29	
GMAL 3554			

Core Descriptor Group



Besides the grouping methods described above, GRIN-Global has a capability for grouping accessions by using Descriptors (“Crop Traits”). A curator can decide which accessions would be a representative group of accessions and add them to a CORE group. Under descriptors, a researcher can select that group and get a list of pre-defined group of accessions.

Shown below is the Crop **APPLE** in the NPGS system A CORE Descriptor had been defined.

The screenshot shows the U.S. National Plant Germplasm System interface. The 'Choose Crop' dropdown is set to 'APPLE'. Under 'Choose descriptor(s):', the 'CORE' descriptor is selected in the 'Uncategorized descriptors (OTHER)' section. The 'Go' button is visible at the bottom of the selection area.

Descriptor: CORE SUBSET (CORE) [Download list of accessions evaluated for this trait](#)

Definition:	A flag to indicate the accession is part of the core subset
Crop:	APPLE
Category:	Uncategorized descriptors
Status:	Crop Germplasm Committee approved
Data Type:	Alpha/numeric descriptor
Maximum Length:	1
Responsible site:	Natl. Germplasm Repository - Geneva (GEN)

Studies or environments for this trait

- [APPLE.CORE](#) - (258 Accessions)

Distribution of Values for CORE SUBSET (CORE)

Code	Definition	Number of Accessions
Y	Yes, the accession is part of the core collection	258

The recommended way to set up a core group is to create a coded trait for the crop.

Search Results

Add To Query Clear Query

Get Source Descriptor Observation Crop Trait Observation Data **Crop** Crop Trait Get Crop Trait Code Lang Crop Trait Code Get Crop Att

Crop ID	Crop	Note	Created Date
115	APPLE	Contains characteristic data on Apple (Malus) accessions as proposed by the Apple Crop Germplasm Committee (CGC). For additional information on the evaluations, contact the Plant Genetic Resources Unit, Geneva, NY 14456-0462, 315-787-2390.	8/4/1994 8:0

Search Results

Add To Query Clear Query

Get Source Descriptor Observation Crop Trait Observation Data Crop **Crop Trait** Get Crop Trait Code Lang Crop Trait Code Get Crop Attach Taxonomi Show All Colu

Crop Trait ID	Crop	Trait Name	Trait Title	Trait Description	Is Peer Reviewed?	Category	Data Type	Is Coded?	Maximum Length
115154	APPLE	CORE	CORE SUBSET	A flag to indicate the accession is part of the core subset	Y	Uncategorized descriptors	Alpha/numeric d...	Y	1

Only one code record is needed:

Inventory Get Cooperator Get Accession Action Get Web Order Request Get Accession Inventory Name Get Crop Trait Get Crop Trait Observation **Get Crop Trait Code** Show

Crop Trait Code ID	Crop	Trait Name	Crop Trait	Trait Description	Trait Code	Code Title	Code Description
8200	APPLE	CORE	CORE SUBSET	A flag to indicate the accession is part of the core subset	Y	Yes, the accession is part of the core collection	Yes, the accession is part of the core collection

To have an accession included in a core group, the curator creates an observation record. In the **Crop Trait Observation** dataview, the curator selects an inventory, the crop, the trait, in this example “**CORE SUBSET**,” and selects the **Coded Value** field from a lookup picker. (Not shown – a Method must also be selected.)

Site Accessions Inventory W6 Site Inventory Orders Order Request Item Accession Source Get Geography Get Crop Trait **Get Crop Trait Observation**

Crop Trait Observation ID	Accession	Inventory	Crop	Crop Trait	Coded Value	Trait Code
-1	PI 613836	.j1 PL	APPLE	CORE SUBSET	Yes, the accession is part of the core collection	

When saved, the new record displays, including the “Y” in the **Trait Code** field:

Site Accessions Inventory W6 Site Inventory Orders Order Request Item Accession Source Get Geography Get Crop Trait Get Crop Trait Observation

Crop Trait Observation ID	Accession	Inventory	Crop	Crop Trait	Coded Value	Trait Code	Numerical Value
11444405	PI 613836	PI 613836 .j1 PL	APPLE	CORE SUBSET	Yes, the accession is part of the ...	Y	

The result in the Public Website was shown on the previous page.

You can also use TRAITS with a specific value to act as a filter in the Curator Tool:

Query: @crop.name = 'APPLE'
AND
@crop_trait_lang.title = 'CORE SUBSET'

Accession ID	Digital Object Identifier	Accession Prefix	Accession Number	Accession Status	Taxon	Name
1001525		PI	588753		Malus mandshurica	GMAL 46
1001660		PI	588757		Malus x hartwigii	GMAL 52
1001766		PI	588761		Malus sargentii	GMAL 56
1002152		PI	588772		Malus domestica	Monroe
1002303		PI	588778		Malus domestica	Virginiagold
1002470		PI	588785		Malus domestica	Esopus Spitze



In the legacy GRIN system, a trigger was set up to create “CORE” observation records whenever the Accession field Is Core? was selected. That is not the case in GRIN-Global, selecting **Is Core?** on the Accession record does not generate a CORE observation record for the accession.

The CORE trait must be manually set up; then the curator must create observation records for the accessions that are to be considered “CORE.”

Accession ID	Origin	Maintenance Site	Is Core?	Is Back Up?
243	Nepal	NC7	N	Y
462	Mexico, Ciudad d...	NC7	N	N
780	Mexico, Morelos	NC7	N	Y
4-W	United States, lo...	NC7	N	Y
491	Mexico, Tlaxcala	NC7	N	Y

Search Results

Add To Query Clear Query Limit: 1000 Page Size: 1000

Get Crop Trait Get Crop Trait Code get_crop Get Web Cooperator Get Web Order Request Get Accession Inventory Group Get Name Group Show All Colour

Crop Trait ID	Crop	Trait Name	Trait Title	Trait Description	Is Peer Reviewed?	Category
177023	PEA	CORE	Core subset	A flag to indicate the accession is part of the core subset	Y	A subset of a collection

Appendix A: Document Revision Notes

– October 25, 2023

- examples of the Name Group dataview were modified/added, as this dataview name has changed into table on page 2

– August 27, 2020

- modified intro table on page 2
- added text for **Method** searching in the Public Website
- added screens from PW2
- added note re **Is Core?** not tied to CORE descriptors

– March 3, 2020

- edited text in comparison table of **Accession Inventory Group** and **Name Group**

– October 6, 2019

- edited text on using Method as a filter

– December 1, 2018

- edited text and replaced images in the Core Subset section