Limitations to the principle of priority

Application of the principle of priority has the following limitations:

Starting dates
The principle of priority starts with the *Species plantarum* of Linnaeus published on 1-5-1753. The starting dates for different groups are provided. The publications before these dates for respective groups are ignored while deciding the priority.

Not above family rank
The principle of priority is applicable only up to the family rank, and not above.

Not outside the rank
In choosing a correct name for a taxon, names or epithets available at that rank need to be considered. Only when a correct name at that rank is not available, can a combination be made using the epithet from another rank.

Nomina Conservanda
Nomina conservanda (abbreviated as nom. cons.): Nomen conservandum is a Latin term, meaning "a name to be conserved". The name is retained, even though it violates one or more rules which would otherwise prevent it from being legitimate. e.g., *Sesbania* scop, 1777 is the conserved genus as against *Sesban* adam 1763 and *Agati* adam 1763.

Conservation of names of species
According to the rules of nomenclature when two species with the same date of publication are united, the author who unites them first has the choice of selecting the correct binomial. In spite of several protests from agricultural botanists and horticulturists, who were disgusted with frequent name changes due to the strict application of the principle of priority, taxonomists for a long period did not agree upon conserving names at the species level. The mounting pressure and the discovery that *Triticum aestivum* was not the correct name of common wheat, compelled taxonomists to agree at the **Sydney Congress** in 1981 upon the provision to conserve names of species of major economic importance. As a result, *Triticum aestivum* Linn. was the first species name conserved at **Berlin Congress** in 1987 and published in subsequent Code in 1988. Another species name also conserved along with was *Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill.

For detailed study, please refer to : Singh, G. *Plant Systematics:* Theory and Practice. Oxford & 1131-I Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

Names of Hybrids

- Hybridity is indicated by the use of the multiplication sign, or by the addition of the prefix '**notho-**' to the term denoting the rank of the taxon, the principal ranks being **nothogenus** and **nothospecies**.

- A hybrid between named taxa may be indicated by placing the multiplication sign between the names of the taxa; the whole expression is then called a **hybrid formula**:

✓ *Agrostis* × *Polypogon*
✓ *Agrostis stolonifera* × *Polypogon monspeliensis*
✓ *Salix aurita* × *S. caprea*
✓

- It is usually preferable to place the names or epithets in a formula in alphabetical order. If a non-alphabetical sequence is used, its basis should be clearly indicated.

- A hybrid may either be **interspecific** (between two species belonging to the same genus) or **intergeneric** (between two species belonging to two different genera).

- A binary name may be given to the interspecific hybrid or nothospecies by placing the cross sign before the specific epithet as in the following cases:

✓ *Salix* x *capreola* (*S. aurita* x *S. caprea*) or *Salix* x *capreola* (*S. aurita* x *S. caprea*)
✓ *Rosa* x *odorata* (*R. chinensis* x *R. gigantea*) or *Rosa* x *odorata* (*R. chinensis* x *R. gigantea*)

- The variants of interspecific hybrids are named **nothosubspecies** and **nothovarieties**, e.g. *Salix rubens* nothovar. *basfordiana.*

- For an intergeneric hybrid, if given a distinct generic name, the name is formed as a **condensed formula** by using the first part (or whole) of one parental genus and last part (or whole) of another genus (but not the whole of both genera).

✓ e.g. x *Triticosecale* from *Triticum* and *Secale*

- The nothogeneric name of an intergeneric hybrid derived from four or more genera is formed from the name of a person to which is added the termination **-ara**; no such name may exceed eight syllables. Such a name is regarded as a condensed formula:

✓ x *Potinara* (*Brassavola* x *Cattleya* x *Laelia* x *Sophronitis*)

Names of cultivated plants

- The names of cultivated plants are governed by the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (**ICNCP**), last published in 1995.
- Most of the rules are taken from ICBN with additional recognition of a rank **cultivar** abbreviated **cv.**) for cultivated varieties.
- The name of a cultivar is not written in Italics, it starts with a capital letter, and is not a Latin but rather a common name.

- It is either preceded by **cv.** as in *Rosa floribunda* cv. Blessings or simply within single quotation marks, e.g. *Rosa floribunda* 'Blessings'.
- Cultivars may also be named directly under a genus (e.g. *Hosta* 'Decorata'), under a hybrid (*e.g. Rosa* x *paulii* 'Rosea') or directly under a common name (e.g. Hybrid Tea Rose 'Red Lion').
- Since 1 January 1959 new cultivar names should have a description published in any language and these names must not be the same as the botanical or common name of a genus or a species.
- Thus, cultivar names 'Rose', 'Onion', etc., are not permitted as the name of a cultivar.
- It is recommended that cultivar names be registered with proper registering authorities to prevent duplication or misuse of cultivar names. Registering authorities exist separately for roses, orchids and several other groups or genera.

For detailed study, please refer to : Singh, G. *Plant Systematics:* Theory and Practice. Oxford & 1131-I Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.