

NATIONAL CLEAN PLANT NETWORK – BERRIES TIER 2 GOVERNING BOARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Sec. 1 General

(a) The name of this organization shall be the “National Clean Plant Network - Berries” (NCPN - B). The NCPN - B is a commodity-based group (Tier 2) created to provide expertise, advice and recommendations to the Tier 1 Governing Board of the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN) relative to clean plant issues and funding priorities for berries, including but not limited to crops in the genera *Fragaria* (Strawberry), *Rubus* (Raspberry, Blackberry, and other bramble/cane fruit), *Vaccinium* (Blueberry and Cranberry), *Ribes* (Currant and Gooseberry) and *Sambucus* (Elderberry).

(b) This charter establishes the NCPN - B under the authority of Title X, section 10202, of House Resolution 6124, known as the Food, Conservation & Energy Act of 2008.

(c) Definitions:

Berries shall refer to species in the genera *Fragaria*, *Rubus*, *Vaccinium*, *Ribes* and *Sambucus* regardless of their use for food production or as ornamental plants. It does not exclude participation in the NCPN – B by proponents of other genera, their inclusion as covered genera is at the discretion of the NCPN -B as indicated in any subsequent revisions to the Charter.

Propagatively-borne pathogens shall refer to viruses, viroids, mollicutes, systemic bacterial and fungal pathogens and other pathogenic agents that have not yet been identified.

Clean Plant Centers shall refer to Federal, State, or University facilities that develop diagnostics, treat for plant pathogens and/or maintain nuclear plant material in G1 plantings.

Pathogen tested shall refer to plant material that has undergone testing for certain pathogens and the test results are negative.

G1 (Foundation, Mother, nuclear define G1) shall refer to nuclear plant material grown in protected blocks, such as screenhoused material.

Sec. 2 Statement of Purpose

In May 2008, H.R. 6124 Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, otherwise known as the Farm Bill of 2008, became law. The National Clean Plant Network was included in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) Title X, section 10202. That legislation authorized funding of \$20 million over four years beginning in FY 2009 to establish the NCPN for specialty crops to provide reliable sources of vegetatively propagated material that tested free of known propagatively-borne pathogens and targeted by the NCPN sub networks. The initiative supports a network of clean plant centers in the United States. Those centers would conduct diagnostic and pathogen elimination services

and maintain G1 to provide pathogen-tested plant materials to nurseries for inclusion in state certification programs. The primary purpose is to provide state of the art ‘Clean Plants’ to facilitate the movement of plants for planting within the United States and for export. This effort coincides with a desire by industry and federal and state regulatory agencies to create a system of voluntary compliance to insure that propagatively borne pathogens that can unknowingly be distributed by the nursery industry are detected and eliminated before they become widespread.

Industry members, state regulatory officials, Federal agencies, and academic interests involved with the Berry commodities within the United States have organized into the NCPN - B for purposes of implementing the provisions of this initiative.

THE MISSION of the NCPN - B is to provide high quality asexually propagated berry plant material that has tested free of targeted pathogens and pests that cause economic loss, to protect the environment and enhance the global competitiveness of United States berry plant materials. The NCPN - B will support clean plant centers and provide education and outreach services in support of its mission.

The NCPN will achieve its mission via:

The continued improvement and enhancement of the current mechanisms and strategies for the introduction and release of berry selections from foreign and domestic sources that meet the sanitary status requirements of the NCPN B (Appendix 1).

The development and promotion of improved technologies for pathogen detection and elimination of targeted pathogens.

3. The establishment, maintenance, and upgrade of existing G1 blocks to provide clean propagative planting stocks to the industry within prescribed state and federal laws and regulations and that meet the standards developed by the NCPN.
4. The continued coordination of working relationships with and among appropriate national and international entities that certify plants for planting in support of movement of material within the nursery system.
5. The development and promotion of best management practices in a system approach that will be further supported by certification programs, for use by the berries industry to maintain pathogen-free status for berries propagative material, for distribution of nursery stock and the safe and efficient exchange and introduction of new cultivars.
6. The encouragement, development, and engagement of all possible extension, education and outreach resources that will interact with and train key stakeholders, such as commercial nurseries and growers, to ensure the successful dissemination and use of NCPN B products and services.

Sec. 3 NCPN -B Governance Structure

- (a) The National Clean Plant Network Berries Tier 2 Governing Board (NCPN - B) is established by this Charter and shall represent national interests of berries in the NCPN.
- (b) The NCPN - B operates at a national level and is represented by the Tier 2 Board.
- (c) The headquarters of the NCPN - B will move with the NCPN Chairperson and be at the location of the Chair for the duration of their tenure.

Sec. 4 Organization of NCPN - B Governing Body (GB)

- (a) The NCPN- B Tier 2 Board is composed of voting members (the number of which will be decided upon periodically by the GB) that are elected to represent the three major plant genera covered under the NCPN - B.
- (b) The voting members of the Tier 2 Board shall serve three-year terms, beginning in 2010 and to run the term of the Food, Conservation & Energy Act of 2008. At that time, should the program be continued, one half of the positions representing each plant genera would be voted on again. Thereafter, one half of the board would be up for reelection every three years.

The following criteria must be met for a person to be eligible to be a voting member of the GB:

Voting members must belong in good standing to the major constituent group that they represent (that is, university, research, extension, industry, germplasm and regulatory bodies).

Voting members must represent the best interest of his/her constituent group as a whole regardless of local or personal affiliations.

- (c) Each of the three major plant genera, *Fragaria*, *Rubus* and *Vaccinium*, shall have representation in no less than one of the following categories: commercial production (“growers”); commercial nursery production (“nurseries”); associations, University or Federal scientists in extension or research positions related to the issues; plant breeders and state regulatory employees familiar with state certification programs. Also, each of the plant genera should have national representation on the board.
- (d) As needed due to vacancies, voting members shall be proposed by a selection committee (composed of one each of the university, research, extension, industry, germplasm, and regulatory members) of the NCPN - B at a general meeting and ratified by a poll of individuals that have participated in at least one of the previous two general NCPN -B meetings.
- (e) The Tier 2 Board shall invite to its meetings non-voting observers/advisors from the

following areas: NCPN Governing Body (Tier 1); USDA-APHIS/ARS/NIFA; subject matter experts (SME) for input on technical issues related to clean plants for berries, and others as deemed necessary by the NCPN - B.

(f) The Tier 2 Board shall elect from within its voting members a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall serve two-year terms. There is no limit to the number of times a Board member may serve as Chair and/or Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall automatically succeed the Chair when the Chair's term has expired, unless the Chair is re-elected. The chair and vice-chair should represent at least two of the three plant genera, recognizing that many members may represent more than one plant genera, and in that case all three plant genera should be represented in the Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

(g) If the Chair is absent or can not perform his/her duties, the Vice Chair should act as Chair as necessary. If the Chair and Vice-Chair cannot perform their duties, the remaining voting Tier 2 Board members can designate a temporary Chair.

(h) The Tier 2 Board should identify a person to serve in the capacity of administrative officer/support to the NCPN - B. The duties of this person include, but are not limited to, organizing and supporting NCPN - B meetings, keeping NCPN - B minutes and records, collaborating and communicating with the public and other NCPN specialty crop and national administrative officers, and other duties as assigned. This person will be a non-voting member and respond to the Chair, Vice-Chair and Tier 2 Board. The term of service will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Tier 2 Board.

(i) The Tier 2 Board shall invite to its meetings at least one non-voting observers/advisors from the NCPN Governing Board (Tier 1) and may invite observers/advisors from the following areas: USDA-APHIS/ARS/NIFA; subject matter experts (SME), representative(s) of the National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS), and representative(s) of associations such as the American Phytopathological Society (APS), the American Society for Horticultural Sciences (ASHS) and the American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA) for input on technical issues related to clean plant issues for berries.

Sec. 5 Role of the NCPN - B and the Tier 2 Board

1) The NCPN - B will evaluate the performance of the whole clean plant network for berries on an annual basis. The NCPN - B will use input from the entire berries network, and establish the process and timetable for program evaluation.

2) Role of the Tier 2 Board

Voting members of the Tier 2 Board will nominate individuals as observers to represent the NCPN - B at meetings of the NCPN Governing Body.

Provide leadership and direction for the NCPN - B.

Provide advice on policy and procedures to the NCPN - B and NCPN Tier 1

Establish priorities for funding programs:

The NCPN will request and Tier 2 Board will receive proposals from centers and individuals to support and harmonize the governance, administration, service, research and extension mandate of the NCPN - B.

The NCPN - B will review the proposals for funding, harmonize, and forward, or otherwise indicate its support by virtue of a cover letter on proposals forwarded by the entity that developed it, of any NCPN - B reviewed proposal to NCPN Tier 1 Governing Body for review and approval.

Deliverable outcomes will be identified and reviewed on a regular basis as determined by agreement between the Tier 2 Board and The NCPN GB.

Working groups will be established to formulate operating procedures to meet goals.

Sec. 6 Meetings

(a) NCPN - B will hold an annual general meeting to inform and receive input from the whole network for berries; the stakeholders.

(b) The Tier 2 Board shall meet not less than twice per year to set priorities for funding, to confer on pathogen-testing standards and to transact such other business that may properly be brought before it.

(c) The quorum must represent a simple majority of voting members of the Tier 2 Board but must include at least one industry, one regulatory and one research or extension member.

(d) Any established working groups shall meet as necessary to conduct its business.

(e) All decisions of the Tier 2 Board shall be made by a majority vote of the Board. The Chair and Vice-Chair are allowed to vote on issues before the Board. In case of a tie-vote, the Board shall request that the NCPN - B administrative officer, when present, cast a tie-breaking vote.

(f) Meetings of the Tier 2 Board shall be open to the public, except for confidential matters related to personnel issues or confidential business information.

(g) Minutes of the meetings shall be posted on a site accessible to the public.

(h) Any voting member of the Board who misses two consecutive meetings may be removed from his or her position. The Chair will consult with the individual about their intent to continue participating and potentially recommend replacement.

Sec. 7 Amendment of Charter

(a) This charter and any supporting documentation will be available for public review upon request to the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Tier 2 Board.

(b) This charter may be amended at any time by the Tier 2 Board as voted upon by its members. Amendment of any provision requires a simple majority vote.

Sec. 8 Duration of Charter

(a) This charter, as may be amended, shall remain in effect for 4 years from the time of its ratification by members of the NCPN – B Governing Board.

(b) This charter may be renewed by mutual agreement of the NCPN - B Tier 2 Board in consultation with stakeholders and in discussion with the NCPN-GB (Tier 1). Such renewals shall remain in affect for a period of time as may be determined by the NCPN - B GB not to exceed 4 years per renewal.

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