

**CHARTER  
NATIONAL CLEAN PLANT NETWORK FOR ROSES**

**Sec. 1 General**

(a) The name of this organization shall be the “National Clean Plant Network for Roses” (NCPNR). The NCPNR is a specialty crop group created to provide expertise, advice and recommendations to the Governing Board of the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN) relative to clean plant issues and funding priorities for roses.

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

(c) Definitions

- (1) ‘Propagatively-borne pathogens’ shall refer to viruses, viroids, phytoplasma, bacteria, and other *Rosa* pathogenic and graft-transmissible agents.
- (2) ‘Clean plant centers’ shall refer to federal, state or university facilities that diagnose and perform therapy for plant pathogens and/or maintain pathogen-tested plant material in foundation plantings.
- (3) ‘Pathogen-tested’ shall refer to plant material that has undergone testing for targeted pathogens with negative results for the presence of those pathogens.

**Sec. 2 Mission**

(a) Statement of Purpose

In June 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 propagative material that are free of propagative-borne pathogens.

The NCPN initiative supports a network of clean plant centers in the United States. Those centers conduct diagnostic and pathogen elimination services and/or maintain mother/foundation blocks to provide pathogen-tested plant materials to nurseries, growers and state certification programs. This effort coincides with a desire by industry and federal and state regulatory agencies to create a system of voluntary compliance to insure that pests and diseases that can originate in, and be distributed by, the nursery industry are detected and eliminated before they become widespread.

Rose industry members, as well as persons with state and federal regulatory and academic interests related to the grape commodity within the United States have organized into the National Clean Plant Network for Roses for purposes of implementing

the provisions of the NCPN initiative. The mission of the NCPNR is to provide high quality asexually propagated rose plant material free of targeted pathogens and pests that cause economic loss, to protect the environment and ensure the global competitiveness of United States rose industry. The NCPNR will support clean plant centers and provide education and outreach services in support of its mission.

(b) NCPNR Priorities

A set of NCPNR priorities for funding will be discussed and agreed upon by the Board in their initial meetings.

**Sec. 3 NCPNR Governance Structure**

(a) The NCPNR Board, which is established by these operating procedures, shall represent the national interests of all aspects of the rose industry in the United States, including but not limited to cut flowers, landscape plants, oil, and rootstock roses.

(b) The NCPN for Roses is governed by a board of **X** members, including members representing the rose industry, and university/extension.

(c) The headquarters of the National Clean Plant Network for Roses is at Foundation Plant Services, University of California, at Davis, California. Administrative support for the NCPNR will be provided by the NCPN Governing Board to the Chair of the NCPNR Board.

**Sec. 4 Tier 2 Board Organization**

(a) The NCPNR (Tier 2) Board is composed of **number (X)** members representing all of the following categories: commercial rose production (“growers”); commercial rose nursery production (“nurseries”); public sector or university scientists in extension and research related to rose issues; and state regulatory employees familiar with state certification programs.

(b) The voting members of the Tier 2 Board shall serve four-year terms. Elections for the four-year terms shall be staggered as follows: if the NCPN continues to fund the NCPNR after the initial four-year appropriation contained in the 2008 Farm Bill, half of the existing NCPNR Board members shall be replaced so as to avoid all terms becoming due simultaneously. The terms of current Board members may be extended in order to accomplish the staggered terms. There shall be no term limits for Board members.

(b.1) Elections for NCPNR Board members shall be conducted in an expeditious and fair manner, either at a Board meeting or through commonly-available forms of media such as e-mail or teleconference. Nominations shall be solicited from all Board members for the open position(s). An eligible nominee must qualify per the provisions of Section 5 (c.1), *infra.*, All Board members are eligible to vote in elections for all Board positions,

except that the Chair of the NCPNR shall not vote unless there is a need to break a tie vote. Voting shall be accomplished using confidential ballots, which shall be maintained in a confidential file for review by the NCPNR Board members until the Board meeting following the election.

(c) The NCPNR Board shall invite to its meetings non-voting observers/advisors from the following areas: NCPN Governing Body (Tier 1); APHIS; and subject matter experts (SME) for input on technical issues related to clean plant issues for roses.

(d) The NCPNR 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.

(e) If the Chair and Vice-Chair cannot perform their duties, the remaining voting Board members shall designate a temporary Chair.

(f) An ad hoc advisory committee composed of NCPN rose industry stakeholders and state regulatory representatives shall be appointed to participate in the review process of funding proposals submitted by the rose clean plant centers to the NCPN Governing Board. The NCPNR shall select that ad hoc committee from among the Board members meeting those qualifications.

## **Sec. 5 Tier 2 Board Meetings**

(a) The NCPNR 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.

(b) A quorum of the NCPNR Board shall consist of a simple majority of voting members with at least one representative each from industry, state regulatory, research and extension. A Board member may be counted in the quorum when participating in the meeting either in person or by teleconference.

(c) All decisions of the Board shall be made by a simple majority vote of the Board. The Vice-Chair is allowed to vote on matters before the Board, unless acting as the Chair. Every Board member is eligible to nominate and vote on elections for all NCPNR Board positions.

(c.1) The following criteria must be met for a person to be eligible to be a voting member of the NCPNR Board:

- (i) a voting member must be a participant in good standing of the major constituent group that he/she represents (rose industry, state regulatory, or public sector or university research and extension related to rose issues);

(ii) a voting member must agree to represent the best interest of his/her constituent group as a whole, regardless of local or personal affiliation.

(c.2) The NCPNR Chair shall not vote except to break a tie vote on any matter.

(d) Meetings of the Board shall be open to the public, except for confidential matters related to personnel issues.

(e) Minutes of the meetings shall be posted in a site accessible to the public.

(f) Any voting member of the Board who misses two consecutive Board meetings shall be removed from his or her position. Participation by teleconference is considered 'presence' at a meeting. The NCPNR Board shall replace the removed Board member with a representative possessing similar qualifications.

(g) Minutes, agendas and documents for past meetings of the NCPNR Board can be accessed at the NCPN stakeholders' website at:  
NationalCleanPlantNetwork.org (under NCPN Roses)

## **Sec. 6 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 NCPNR Board.

(b) This charter may be amended at any time by the NCPNR Board. Amendment of any provision requires a 2/3 vote of a quorum of the NCPNR Board.

## **Sec .7 Duration of Charter**

(a) This charter shall remain in effect until dissolved by a 2/3 vote of a quorum of the NCPNR Board.

Revised: April 4, 2012