Sec. 1 General

(a) The name of this organization shall be the “Citrus Clean Plant Network” (CCPN). The CCPN is a commodity-based committee (Tier 2) created to provide expertise, advice and recommendations, including prioritization of funding, to the Governing Board of the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN) (Tier 1) relative to the development, maintenance, and distribution of pathogen-tested citrus propagative materials.

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

(c) Definitions:
   a. Citrus shall refer to species of Citrus and related taxa in the Family Rutaceae, regardless of their use.
   b. Propagatively-borne pathogens shall refer to viruses, viroids, bacteria, mollicutes, and other citrus pathogenic agents that have not yet been identified.
   c. Clean Plant Centers shall refer to Federal, State, or University facilities that diagnose and perform therapy for plant pathogens and/or maintain nuclear plant material in foundation plantings.
   d. Pathogen-tested shall refer to plant material that has undergone testing for targeted pathogens and the test results are negative.

Sec. 2 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. Section 10202 mandated the establishment of the NCPN by the USDA and authorized funding of $20 million over four years beginning in FY 2009. The goal of the NCPN is to provide reliable sources of propagative material for specialty crops that are free of propagative-borne pathogens. The initiative supports a network of clean plant centers in the United States. These centers are to conduct diagnostic and pathogen-elimination services and/or maintain mother/foundation blocks (G1) to provide tested, pathogen-free plant materials to nurseries, growers and state or regional certification programs. This effort coincides with a desire by industry and federal and state regulatory agencies to create a system of voluntary compliance to ensure that pests and diseases that can originate in, and be distributed by, the nursery industry are detected and eliminated before they become widespread.

Industry members, state regulatory and academic interests involved with the citrus commodity within the United States have organized into the CCPN for purposes of implementing the provisions of this initiative. The mission of the CCPN is to provide high-quality, propagative citrus material free of targeted plant pathogens that may cause
economic loss, to protect the environment and ensure the global competitiveness of the United States of America’s citrus industry.

The CCPN will achieve its mission via:
1. The continued improvement and enhancement of the current mechanisms and strategies for the introduction and release of citrus selections from foreign and domestic sources.
2. The establishment, maintenance, and upgrade of foundation mother blocks (G1) to provide clean propagative stock to the industry within prescribed state and federal laws and regulations.
3. The continued coordination of working relationships with and among appropriate international and national entities that certify plants for planting in support of movement of material within the nursery system.
4. The development and promotion of best management practices for use by the citrus nursery industry to maintain pathogen-tested citrus propagative material.
5. 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, growers, and interested parties to ensure the successful dissemination and use of CCPN products and services.
6. A forum for discussion of enhancement of the systems approach to distribution of nursery stock and the safe and efficient exchange and introduction of new varieties and rootstocks.

Sec.3 CCPN Governance Structure

(a) The CCPN Governing Body which is established by this Operating procedures shall represent national interests of citrus in the NCPN.

(b) The headquarters of the CCPN may move with the CCPN Chairperson and be at the location of the Chair for the duration of their tenure.

Sec.4 Organization of CCPN Governing Body (GB)

(a) Initially the GB will be appointed by a committee consisting of the persons attending the CCPN meeting held 03/23/2010. The GB will consist of persons drawn from this group and the stakeholder group, contacted as necessary.

(b) The GB is composed of voting members (the number of which will be decided upon periodically by the GB, not to exceed eleven persons) that are drawn from the various citrus-producing states and/or citrus-producing regions representing all of the following categories: commercial citrus production (“growers”); commercial citrus nursery production (“nurseries”); citrus associations; academic or Federal personnel in the areas of extension and research related to citrus issues; germplasm collections; and state regulatory employees familiar with state certification and registration programs.

(c) The subsequent GB members shall be proposed by a nomination committee of the CCPN (composed of one each of the research, extension, nursery, grower, association,
germplasm collection, and regulatory members) at a general meeting and elected by a poll of individual stakeholders.

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

a. Voting members must belong to the major constituent group that they represent (that is, research, extension, nursery, grower, association, germplasm collection, and regulatory bodies).
b. Voting members must represent the best interest of their constituent group as a whole regardless of local or personal affiliations.

d) Voting members of the GB shall serve two-year terms. There is no limit to the number of times that a committee member may serve. Beginning with elections in 2010 or thereafter, elections for the two-year terms shall be staggered so as to avoid all terms becoming due simultaneously. The terms of current GB members may be extended in order to accomplish the staggered terms. The initial GB election process should be completed by 04/15/2010.

(e) The GB shall elect from within its voting members a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall serve two-year non-concurrent terms. There is no limit to the number of times a GB member may serve as Chair and/or Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall serve according to Roberts’ Rules Of Order. The Vice-Chair shall automatically succeed the Chair when the Chair’s term has expired, unless the Chair is re-elected.

(f) The GB shall select a person to serve the in the capacity of Administrative Officer/support to the CCPN. The duties of this person shall include, but are not limited to, organizing and supporting CCPN -GB meetings, keeping CCPN -GB 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 shall be a non-voting member and shall respond to the Chair and Vice-Chair. The term of service shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the GB.

(g) The GB may invite to its meetings non-voting observers/advisors from the following areas: NCPN Governing Board (Tier 1); USDA-APHIS/ARS/NIFA; subject matter experts (SME); representative(s) of the National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS); representative(s) of the American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA); and other areas as appropriate for input on technical issues related to clean plant issues for citrus.

Sec.5 Roles of the CCPN and the GB

1) The CCPN will evaluate the performance of the whole clean plant network for citrus on an annual basis. The CCPN will use input from the entire citrus network, and establish the process and timetable for program evaluation.
2) Role of the GB
   a. Voting members of the GB may name individuals to represent the CCPN at
      meetings of the NCPN.
   b. Provide leadership and direction for the CCPN.
   c. Provide advice on policy and procedures to the NCPN.
   d. Establish priorities for funding programs:
      i. The CCPN -GB will request and receive proposals from centers and
         individuals to support and harmonize the governance, administration, service,
         research and extension mandate of the CCPN.
      ii. The CCPN -GB will review the proposal(s) for funding, harmonize, and
         provide input regarding the CCPN proposal(s) to the NCPN Tier 1 Governing
         Board for review.
   e. Progress on CCPN activities will be reviewed by the GB on a regular basis.
   f. Working groups may be established as determined by the CCPN –GB.

Sec.6 Meetings

(a) CCPN will hold an annual general meeting to inform and receive input from the
whole network for citrus.

(b) The CCPN -GB shall meet not less than once 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 GB.

(d) All decisions of the GB shall be made by a majority vote of the Board. The Chair and
Vice-Chair are allowed to vote on issues before the GB.

(e) Meetings of the CCPN -GB shall be open to the public, except for confidential
matters related to personnel issues or business information.

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

(g) 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 may recommend replacement.

Sec.7 Amendment of Operating Procedures

(a) These operating procedures and any supporting documentation will be available for
public review upon request to the Chair or Vice-Chair of the CCPN -GB.
(b) These operating procedures may be amended at any time by the CCPN -GB as voted
upon by its members. Amendment of any provision requires a simple majority vote.
Sec.8 Duration of Operating Procedures

(a) These operating procedures, as may be amended, shall remain in effect for 3 years from the time of its ratification by members of the CCPN -GB.

(b) These operating procedures shall be renewed by the CCPN -GB in consultation with stakeholders and in discussion with the NCPN-GB (Tier 1). Such renewals shall remain in effect for a period of time of up to four years as determined by the CCPN -GB.

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