



**NATIONAL CLEAN PLANT NETWORK (NCPN)**  
**Farm Bill 2014 Sec. 10007(e) – FY 2008-2016**  
*(Formerly Farm Bill 2008 Sec. 10202)*

**NCPN Establishment**



**The Farm Bill – H.R. 6124 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008** – became law in June 2008. **Section 10202** directs the USDA Secretary of Agriculture to establish the “National Clean

Plant Network” (NCPN), a program under which:

- Partnerships of clean plant centers are organized;
- Centers focus on diagnostic and pathogen elimination services;
- Activities produce clean propagative plant material;
- Centers maintain blocks of pathogen-tested plant materials in sites throughout the United States.

Clean plant material may then be made available to States for certified clean plant programs and to private nurseries and producers.

In carrying out the NCPN, the program:

- Consults with State departments of agriculture, land grant universities, non land grant colleges of agriculture, and industry;
- Uses existing Federal or State facilities to serve as clean plant centers to the extent practicable.

**NCPN Background**

At its core, the NCPN is a collaborative effort among three USDA agencies; the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for quarantine and regulatory programs, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) for technology and germplasm issues, and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) for outreach and partnership initiatives.

As a concept, however, the NCPN began in November 2006 when a steering committee, with representatives from the nursery industry, the grower community, the National Plant Board (NPB) and other state regulatory agencies, the land-grant university system, and USDA was formed to review existing “clean plant programs”, prioritize a list of specialty crops for funding, and propose an NCPN implementation process.

A series of national workshops followed in FY 2007, 2009, 2010, and 2011, designed to further hone the NCPN mission, strategic plan, establish program direction, policies, and procedures, and to address critical and emerging program issues.

Basic to NCPN are stakeholder driven, specialty crop, clean plant governing bodies composed of interested state, university, and industry partners. By FY 2010 stakeholders representing Fruit Trees (Pomes and Stone Fruit), Grapes, Berries (Strawberries, Cranberries/Blueberries, and Cane Fruit), Citrus, and Hops formed NCPN governing bodies entrusted with harmonizing and networking clean plant activities for their crop groups under the NCPN banner.

In FY 2010 NCPN established an Education and Outreach Working Group to develop and deliver extension materials to nurseries and growers. Additionally, in FY 2011 NCPN also established a Cross-Commodity Industry Leadership Team to help facilitate effective communication among covered specialty crops and to ensure that NCPN generated products meet the needs of industry.



In FY 2014 the **Agriculture Act 2014** reauthorized NCPN under **Section 10007(e)**. Two additional specialty crops; sweetpotato and roses, joined the network, extending coverage to 7 specialty crops.

Since its inception in 2008, NCPN, through its Cooperative Agreements Program has provided about \$30,000,000 in support of 35 initiatives at 28 clean plant centers and in 19 States and U.S. Territories.

**NCPN Mission**

*The NCPN produces and distributes asexually propagated plant material free of targeted plant pathogens and pests to ensure the global competitiveness of specialty crop producers and protect the environment.*

**NCPN Goals and Objectives**

1. **Governance:** Establish, manage, and administer a national clean plant network and commodity specific national and regional governing bodies.
2. **Clean Plant Service and Operations:** Provide for the rapid and safe introduction, diagnostics, therapeutics, foundation plantings, and release of clean plant materials for planting from foreign and domestic sources for commercial development.
3. **Facilities and Technologies:** Supports improvements to facilities, clean plant technologies, and information sharing.
4. **Extension and Outreach:** Develop partnerships with extension/outreach services to interact with commercial nurseries, producers, and others.

**NCPN Memorandum of Understanding**

- Lays foundation for NCPN goals and program governance at the Federal and cooperator level.
- Signed on March 26, 2009 in Washington, DC.

**NCPN Activities**

- Create Commodity-Based Clean Plant Network Governing Bodies and Working Groups.
- Develop Consultative and Communications Procedures with stakeholders.
- Build Strategic and Business Plans
- Engage in needs driven Priority Setting with commodity-based specialty crop partners.
- Support a network of Facilities and Expertise for pathogen testing, therapy, and associated science.
- Establish Foundation Clean Stock plantings and provide material to nurseries and growers.
- Improve the National Plant Germplasm System by testing and cleaning plant material for industry.
- Set Diagnostic Guidelines and National Standards.
- Advocate for industry-driven Best Management Practices in support of clean plant networks.
- Organize and deliver Education, Extension, and Outreach programs.
- Coordinate and share the use of scarce Resources to support commodity-based clean plant networks.

**NCPN Governance** (Through January 2016)

NCPN is governed by a Core Working Group (CWG) comprised of APHIS, ARS and NIFA. The CWG is nested in the NCPN Governing Board (NCPN-GB) composed of 5 State and Federal members (Tier 1). Currently fruit tree, grape, berry, citrus, hops, sweetpotato, and roses specialty crop networks constitute NCPN, each with their own governance at national (Tier2) level. These governing bodies have representatives from the industry, associations, state regulators, research, and extension. NCPN governance is further augmented with both a Cross-Commodity Industry Leadership Team and an Education/Outreach Working Group.

**NCPN Strategic/Business Plan**

- Covers NCPN Mission, Goals, Performance Measures, and Funding Plan.
- Finalized/Ratified by stakeholders in 2009.
- Updated Strategic Plan anticipated in 2016/2017.

**NCPN Farm Bill 2014 Funding – Status**

- \$5 million each year 2014-2018 and thereafter.

**NCPN Support - Focus**

NCPN Strives to Identify and Support Recognized Public Needs for Clean Plant Activities.

**NCPN Cooperative Agreements Program for FY 2009-2016 – Funding Specifics**

- NCPN Funding Program Funding Mechanism:
  - Competitive Cooperative Agreements Program
- Request for Applications FY 2009-2016:
  - Generally Advertised: September/October
  - Generally Provided: April/May

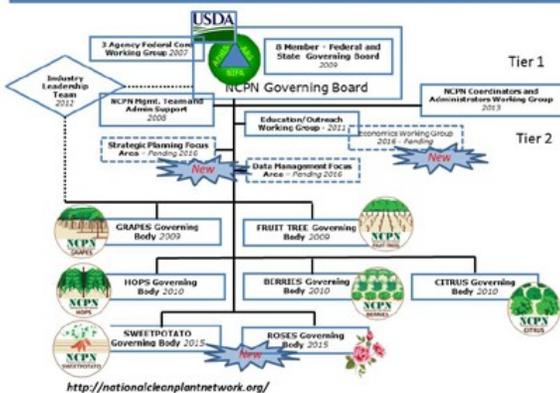
NCPN Program Funding History – FY 2008-2016

Specialty Crop	Farm Bill 2008 NCPN 2008-2012 100%	NCPN 2013 Funding	Farm Bill 2014 NCPN 2014-2018	Total Program Funding To Date	Future Anticipated Yearly Ceiling Per Crop Base = \$4.3-\$4.7M
Fruit Tree	\$ 5,075,462		\$ 3,387,107	\$ 8,462,569	20%-21% of available base
Grapes	\$ 7,980,599		\$ 2,984,033	\$ 10,964,632	20%-21% of available base
Hops	\$ 475,800		\$ 558,518	\$ 1,034,318	3%-6% of available base
Citrus	\$ 2,850,224		\$ 2,617,162	\$ 5,467,386	20%-21% of available base
Berries	\$ 1,939,507		\$ 1,419,942	\$ 3,359,449	10%-11% of available base
Sweet Potato	N/A		\$ 858,437	\$ 858,437	5%-10% of available base
Roses	N/A		\$ 435,755	\$ 435,755	5%-7% of available base
Other	\$ 260,179		\$ 96,033	\$ 356,212	TBD
	\$18,605,871		\$ 5,077,821	\$23,683,692	

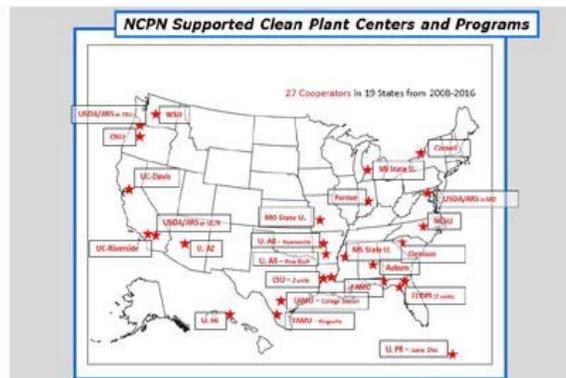
<http://nationalcleanplantnetwork.org/>

**NCPN Supported Clean Plant Centers FY 2008-2016**

NCPN Governance – January 2016



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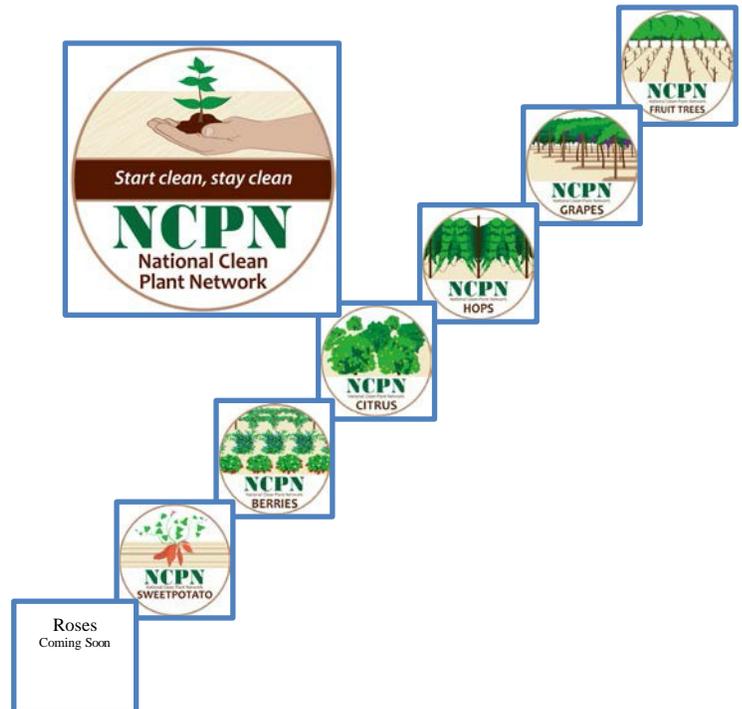
## **NCPN Accomplishments 2008-2016**

- Built national, regional and crop-specific NCPN governing bodies composed of governmental, university, and industry representatives nationwide.
- Supporting Fruit Tree (Pomes and Stone Fruits) Clean Plant Network Initiatives:
  - California, Oregon, South Carolina, and Washington.
- Supporting Grape Clean Plant Network Initiatives:
  - California, Florida, Missouri, New York, and Washington.
- Supporting Citrus Clean Plant Network Initiatives:
  - Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, and Texas.
- Supporting Berries (Strawberries, Blueberries, Cranberries, and Cane Fruit) Clean Plant Network Initiatives:
  - Arkansas, North Carolina, and Oregon.
- Supporting the Hops Clean Plant Network Initiatives:
  - Washington.
- Supporting Sweetpotato Clean Plant Network Initiatives:
  - Arkansas, California, Hawaii, Mississippi, and North Carolina.
- Supporting Roses Clean Plant Network Initiatives:
  - California and Texas.
- Clean Plant Centers revitalized and foundation plantings expanded.
- Clean plants provided to nurseries and growers to ensure planting sustainability and productivity, and quality of products.
- Education, Outreach, Extension, and Economics materials and studies developed and delivered

## **For More Information**

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## **Visit USDA's NCPN Website**

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/ncpn/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ncpn/index.shtml)

## **or the Stakeholder-Driven NCPN Website**

<http://nationalcleanplantnetwork.org/>