



National Clean Plant Network - Fruit Trees Charter

Appendix A:

Actions to achieve National Clean Plant Network - Fruit Trees (NCPN-FT) goals:

1. The NCPN-FT will provide rapid and safe introduction and release of selections from foreign and domestic sources.
 - a. The NCPN-FT will establish, maintain, and enhance a network of facilities and expertise for testing and providing therapy for clones of temperate climate fruit and nut trees based on climatic suitability, current infrastructure and expertise, regional needs, and disease and insect pest pressure.
 - i. Conduct a review of existing facilities to assess strengths and weaknesses.
 - ii. Review state and federal regulations regarding facilities operations to determine where modernization is needed.
 - iii. Validate and implement more rapid and improved testing and therapy protocols.
 - b. The NCPN-FT will use reliable, proven, available methods to release pathogen-tested planting material in a safe and timely fashion.
 - i. The NCPN-FT will agree on diagnostic protocols and diseases and insects being screened consistent with international plant exchange requirements and state certification standards.
 - ii. The NCPN-FT will encourage sharing positive controls.
 - iii. The NCPN-FT will use reasonable methods to obtain desired accessions from reliable sources both within and outside the network.
2. The NCPN-FT will establish and maintain foundation mother blocks (G₁) to provide clean planting stock to industry within prescribed state and federal certification schemes.
 - a. The NCPN-FT will establish collections of cultivars that are tested and found to be free of targeted pathogens and insects in accordance with NCPN-FT standards.
 - i. Center standards will meet or exceed standards of certification requirements needed for practical distribution of collection material and will include site selection, site preparation, isolation distances, pest monitoring protocols, inspection and testing regimes, among other factors.
 - ii. Wherever possible, the NCPN-FT will strive to produce propagation material free of all detectable harmful pathogens for handling.
 - iii. The NCPN-FT centers will consult with stakeholders to prioritize what will be in a collection.
 - b. Centers for the NCPN-FT will establish diagnostic guidelines.
 - i. The NCPN-FT will facilitate harmonization and validation of pathogen and pest detection methods according to accepted protocols to satisfy regulatory needs.
 - ii. The NCPN-FT will coordinate optimization and validation efforts with other entities such as the National Plant Diagnostic Network, academic institutions, USDA-APHIS, USDA-ARS, state agencies, and foreign plant protection agencies and scientists, where possible.

3. The NCPN-FT will establish and coordinate working relationships with and among appropriate entities that certify plants for planting.
 - a. The NCPN-FT will maintain a copy of the State Level Model Regulatory Standard: Virus-tested Certification Program for *Prunus*, *Malus*, *Pyrus*, *Chaenomeles*, and *Cydonia* Nursery Stock Production Systems, make it publicly available, and will review the standard for accuracy and effectiveness on a regular basis.
 - b. Maintain a catalogue of existing state certification programs.
4. The NCPN-FT will annually discuss progress in reaching NCPN-FT goals and will deliberate on concerns related to the domestic and international movement of virus-tested stock and budwood. As part of its role in ensuring adequate amounts of clean propagation material to meet industry needs, the NCPN-FT will prioritize and assign responsibilities to evaluate and act, if appropriate, on those concerns by working with fruit tree clean plant centers, government agencies, and industry to make the safe movement of clean plants for planting more efficient.