



NATIONAL CLEAN PLANT NETWORK (FOR FRUIT TREES , NUT TREES & GRAPEVINES)

For Healthy Food, Farms, and Communities

Clean plant programs provide propagation material that is free of virus-like agents. Programs in the United States are in jeopardy as funding for these service activities declines. Immediate action is needed to:

- Secure a national funding base for the delivery of diagnostic & virus elimination services to the temperate fruit, nut and grape industries
- Distribute funds to key centers of expertise such as the National Program For Controlling Virus Diseases Of Temperate Fruit Tree Crops (NRSP5/IR2) at Washington State University, Prosser, WA, & the Foundation Plant Services (FPS) program at University of California, Davis, CA, and to blocks of elite virus-tested plant material in sites located strategically throughout the country
- Create an industry/scientist advisory board with national representation

The issue:

- As funds are decreasing, the few remaining clean planting stock programs in the USA are struggling to maintain services for our farming industry
- Necessary testing procedures are becoming more sophisticated and more expensive

Clean plant programs help support:

- Secure, safe, high quality, & affordable food supply for the USA
- Internationally competitive, economically viable, and environmentally sustainable agriculture
- Thriving rural communities
- Protection for our country from economic and exotic plant pests and pathogens that could threaten our food supply



Economic benefits:

- For fruit tree crops alone, clean plant programs potentially contribute over \$27,000,000 annually to the country's economy in the form of reduced grower losses and increased availability of fresh fruit to the consumer (Source: Cebali, *et al.* 2002. *Crop Protection* 22:1149).
- An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure – clean plant programs are preventative in nature. Should a disease outbreak occur, control measures become very expensive. For example, local farm economies were crippled and over \$40,000,000 were expended during the first three years of the effort to rid the country of Plum pox virus (source: Don Albrecht, USDA-APHIS).

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The proposed network to provide virus-tested propagation material for perennial horticultural crops would include:

- NRSP5 at Washington State University, Prosser and FPS at University of California, Davis – these programs will function as primary post-entry quarantine sites, and will conduct virus elimination and most virus testing of material from foreign and domestic sources, and provide virus testing support for regional blocks as needed
- Direct participation of all regions of the USA is expected to provide governance
- Blocks of elite plant material will be established in different areas of the USA to serve regional interests and needs. Multiple blocks of elite material also provide resilience should unforeseen situations arise.
 - A revitalized Northwest Grape Foundation Service located at Washington State University will be integrated into the partnership
 - A consortium of mid-Atlantic Land Grant Universities from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia provide resources for a regional grapevine foundation program
 - Clemson University is committed to establishing a regional fruit tree foundation block. The University currently operates a clean stock tested program in partnership with growers in South Carolina and Georgia and nurseries in Tennessee
 - Cornell University at Geneva will re-activate its fruit tree & grapevine virus programs
- INDUSTRY WILL CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE \$2,705,000 ANNUALLY to clean stock programs through user fees and contributions to State-managed certification programs via commodity check-offs

Federal funding request • elements for a strong, national program:

- Funding to assist in the establishment of blocks of elite propagation material
- On-going cooperative funding base to support elite stock program operations
- A USDA-CSREES Special Grants program to encourage the advancement of diagnostic and virus elimination technologies that are the foundation of these programs

Years 1 & 2: Establishment phase

• Operation of existing virus testing and elimination programs; establishment of regional elite stock programs	\$2,500,000
• USDA-CSREES Special Research Grant Program for research to enhance plant virus detection and improve methods of virus elimination	\$600,000
TOTAL FEDERAL REQUEST: Enhancement of USDA-CSREES budget	\$3,100,000

Subsequent years: Operational phase

• Operation of existing virus testing and elimination programs and foundation blocks	\$2,074,000
• USDA-CSREES Special Research Grant Program for research to enhance plant virus detection and improve methods of virus elimination	\$600,000
TOTAL FEDERAL REQUEST: Enhancement of USDA-CSREES budget	\$2,674,000