

National Clean Plant Network

How are clean plant efforts organized nationally, state-wide? Where does funding come from?

Clean plants are integral to industry sustainability. Federal and state funding/resources exist to fund programs that support clean plants for sustainability of Washington vineyards through the Plant Pest and Disease Management Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Program (APHIS) and National Clean Plant Network (NCPN).

The NCPN was authorized by Congress as part of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, also known as the 2008 Farm Bill. The Act directed the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with State departments of agriculture and land-grant colleges and universities, to establish a network of clean plant centers for diagnostic and pathogen elimination services to produce clean propagative plant material and to maintain blocks of pathogen-tested plant material throughout the country. The Act authorizes no less than \$5 million per year for NCPN from funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, a federally owned/operated corporation within USDA.

The purpose of the NCPN is to protect U.S. specialty crops, including grapes, from the spread of harmful pests and disease by providing disease and pest-free plant material. The NCPN operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with three federal agencies -- APHIS, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Clean plant activities specific to grapes are currently conducted at five centers nationwide: Washington State University at Prosser (Clean Plant Center Northwest or CPC-NW), University of California at Davis (NCPN Grapes headquarters), Cornell University in New York, Missouri State University at Mountain Grove, and Florida A&M University in Tallahassee. Funding for the network is made available under competitive cooperative agreements.

The goal of the CPC-NW is to ensure a long-term sustainable supply of pathogen-free planting materials for commercial nurseries and growers primarily in the Northwest. CPC-NW also serves as a backup, "safety net" for the facility at University of California at Davis.

What is Winegrowers doing for you?

The Northwest Foundation Block Advisory Group (FBAG) was started in 2001 through efforts led by Winegrowers. Winegrowers continues to facilitate FBAG today. The role of FBAG is to hold the position of stakeholder and represent industry interests by advising Washington State University and offering a voice to industry needs for clean plants. FBAG includes representatives from growers, wineries, juice grapes, table grapes, nurseries, University advisory members from Washington and Oregon, and the Departments of Agriculture in Washington, Idaho and Oregon. The Washington State Department of Agriculture's Grapevine Advisory Committee is also an ad hoc member of FBAG.

Winegrowers supports continued federal funding for APHIS and the NCPN through continued coordination with USDA and Federal legislators. Winegrowers is urging the Washington delegation to support continued funding for the NCPN in the 2018 Appropriations Act and to support continuation and expansion of the NCPN in the upcoming 2018 Farm Bill. Winegrowers will continue coordination with Winegrape Growers of America and WineAmerica regarding continued federal funding for APHIS. Winegrowers will continue participation in stakeholder groups including Foundation Block Advisory Group and NCPN Tier 2 Grape Board. The membership will continue to be informed of advocacy efforts and progress.

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