



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Important Changes to Nursery Certification Programs

Surrey, British Columbia – April 16, 2010. At the most recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Nursery Certification Institute, it was determined that BC nurseries currently certified under the *P. ramorum* Certification Program would be granted the option for a staged, grandfathering approach to become certified under the Domestic Phytosanitary Certification Program (DPCP). This decision was made to accommodate the concerns of BC nurseries about the additional requirements involved in making the transition to the whole-nursery systems approach employed by the DPCP.

According to CNCI president John Bakker (Bakker Nurseries, St. Catherine's, ON), "It is widely accepted that nurseries certified under the *P. ramorum* program have many of the elements and procedures already in place to achieve DPCP certification, but there continues to be a reluctance to move to this next step. We believe that this staged-in grandfathering approach represents a friendlier solution to meet grower concerns in this area."

CNCI vice president Anita Heuver, of Eagle Lake Nurseries, Strathmore, AB, one of the first nurseries to be certified under the DPCP agrees, added that it is important for the industry across Canada to consider DPCP certification. "Certification under a systems-based approach is simply easier for all if all are certified. Using this staged approach will help the industry to make that happen."

After agreeing in principle to this new approach for BC nurseries, an industry committee has worked with staff to develop a grandfathering process and related deadlines. It was agreed that the *P. ramorum* Certification Program will be offered in its current form until March 31st, 2012. At that time, it will be integrated as a module into the DPCP and will no longer be offered as a stand-alone program.

At the same time, the CNCI board has also responded favourably to the suggestion that the name of the Domestic Phytosanitary Certification Program (DPCP) should be changed to "Clean

Plants”. The suggestion was brought forth by nursery growers who thought “DPCP” was a bit of a tongue twister and that the program name should be more reflective of the program's benefits.

For further information on the process, or for general program information, please visit:

www.cleanplants.ca.

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For additional information:

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