Standing Operating Procedures

Rose Rosette Virus is spread by a mite known as *Phyllocoptes fructiphilus* which is common in Georgia but has not yet made ingress into Florida. These protocols have been designed to avoid accidentally introducing Rose Rosette Disease or *P. fructiphilus* into Florida while working on our projects.

## Transportation of Plant Materials

There will be a lot of commuting between Georgia, Alabama, Florida and the lab at Quincy, so we need to follow some strict rules regarding the transportation of rose materials.

No living roses are to be transferred to Quincy for the duration of the project. A single exception to this rule is the transportation of cuttings of plant material needed for the mite survey and molecular testing of putatively RRV-infected rose materials. Such material may only be transported if sealed in plastic baggies in a chilled cooler. When transporting this cooler, plant materials are not to be removed from the cooler more than is necessary to ensure safe transport and adequate refrigeration, (i.e. arranging baggies in the cooler for a better fit, moving baggies from one cooler to another, or adding ice to a cooler is okay). These materials are to be immediately placed in refrigerators when arriving at the Quincy lab. These materials are not allowed to leave the lab. Materials should be processed for the mite survey and molecular techniques only. Materials left from survey processing are to be kept in the 5-gallon containers designated until they can be properly sanitized before disposal. Plant material will be ultimately disposed of only after sanitizing with bleach, ethanol, or autoclaving contaminated materials according to the standing protocols in place by the local plant diagnostician and plant pathologist Dr. Fanny Iriarte and Dr. Mathews Paret respectively. After handling contaminated plants, it is recommended that the researcher shower and change clothes before entering areas with uncontaminated roses.

## Transportation of Mites

No live *P. fructiphilus* are to be transported to Quincy from out of state. All plant material suspected to have RRV infection are to be transferred immediately to 100% acetone for transport. There is no exception to this rule.

There is also a risk of cross contamination of mites. Lab personnel who handle predatory mites should not work with *P. fructiphilus* for the remainder of the day or enter plots where we are conducting research which do not involve predatory mites. Lab personnel who have worked with acaricides should also avoid entering areas where mites are being cultured until they have showered and changed clothes.

## Sanitation measures:

Shears for cuttings should only be used for their respective projects. The shears should be routinely sanitized with 70% ethanol and or bleach after use to avoid cross-contamination of infected plant material. All plant materials destined for disposal in Florida should be maintained in a separate designated container and sanitized by autoclaving.