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 Griffin, GA and Quincy, FL so we need to follow some strict rules regarding the transportation of plant materials.

No living plants are to be transferred from Griffin to Quincy for the duration of the project. A single exception to this rule is the transportation of cuttings of plant material needed for molecular testing. Such material may only be transported if sealed in plastic baggies in a chilled cooler. When transporting this cooler, plant materials are to be taken directly from Griffin to Quincy without stopping to any other agricultural area. These materials are to be immediately placed in refrigerators and not allowed to leave the lab. Materials should be processed for molecular techniques only and 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 living mites are to be transported to Quincy. All mites to be transferred to Quincy must have been killed either by freezing overnight before transport or by other chemical means, i.e. acaricides, ethanol, bleach, etc. There is no exception to this rule.

There is also a risk of cross contamination of mites. Researchers 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. Researchers 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. Plants in Griffin can be disposed of in a normal manner.