



United States Department of Agriculture

# Agricultural Marketing Service

Creating Opportunities for American Farmers and Businesses



**Plant Variety Protection Office**

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Plant Variety Protection Office



## 2018 Farm Bill Initiatives in the United States of America

US Plant Variety Protection Office

October 2021

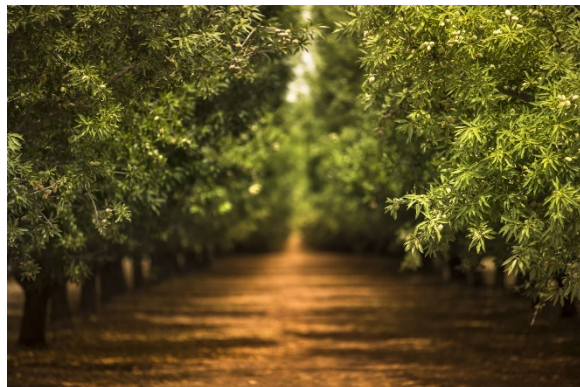
## Plant Variety Protection for Asexual Varieties

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (USDA Farm Bill) amended the Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Act to include protection of asexually reproduced varieties. Previously, a Plant Patent was the only avenue for protecting asexual plant innovations. Breeders can now use a PVP Certificate to complement their plant patent and/or utility patent. Breeders also enjoy the benefits of the close alignment of the PVP system to the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).



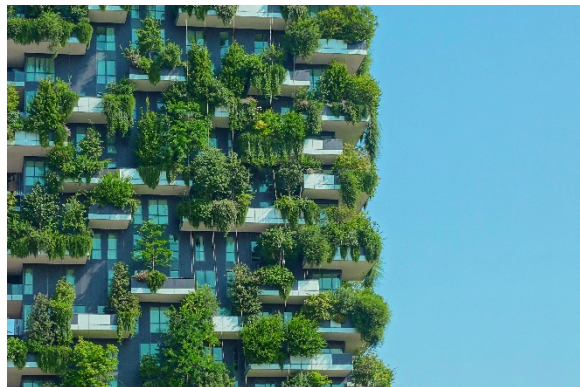
## Plant Variety Protection for Asexual Varieties

The US Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO) administers the PVP Act and follows the UPOV Test Guidelines (TGs) for all asexually reproduced varieties. PVPO accepts Distinctness, Uniformity, and Stability (DUS) reports for asexual crops from other UPOV Countries. Since January 6, 2010, the program has received applications for almond, apple, blackberry, calibrachoa, grapevine, hemp, magnolia, nightshade, phlox, and raspberry varieties for protection.



## Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

The USDA Farm Bill authorized the creation of the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production which will administer urban agriculture grants, develop, and carry out community compost & food waste reduction projects, establish a Federal advisory committee, and carry out new Farm Services Agency pilot programs in urban areas. The new program was authorized to spend \$25 million to establish the program and begin the urban pilot programs.



- Local Food Promotion Programs
- Local Farmers Market Grants
- Farm to School Program
- Conservation Innovation Grants
- Organic Cost Share Program
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program
- Urban, Indoor, & Emerging Agriculture Competitive Grant Program
- Specialty Crop Research Initiative

# Agriculture Advanced Research and Development

The Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AGARDA) was established. The goal of the AGARDA program is to support the development of innovative technologies to address food and agriculture challenges of tomorrow, while providing a new avenue for today's farmers to overcome their most pressing issues. The US Congress authorized \$50 million annually through 2023 for AGARDA grants and cooperative agreements.



- Development of new technology to protect the US food supply
- Enhancement of agriculture environmental sustainability
- Programs to increase agriculture resilience to extreme weather
- Research and development programs to assist the US agriculture industry

## Hemp for Commercial Development

The USDA Farm Bill reintroduced and authorized hemp for commercial production in both States and Tribal Nations. After a hiatus of almost 45 years, the 2014 Farm Bill reintroduced industrial hemp production in the US through State pilot programs to conduct research. The 2018 Farm Bill authorized commercial production of hemp for both States and Tribal Nations with approved plans and legally defined hemp as all forms of *Cannabis sativa* L. with no more than 0.3% Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).



- Regulations to produce hemp were effective March 22, 2021
- Establishes the Domestic Hemp Production Program under USDA
- USDA Agricultural Research Service to establish new collection of hemp germplasm
- State and Federal research programs available to farmers

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