

Grant Extension Request from the Rhode Island Nurseries, Inc.

Time frame:

Please extend our contract end date for one year, to Feb 29, 2012 rather than Feb 28, 2011.

Reason for delay:

We continue to research other compost heating projects and potential improvements/innovations. Since the concrete pad is very permanent, we are seeking ideal construction and trying to avoid the need for potential changes or updates to the system. Once we were comfortable to begin construction late last fall/early winter, we learned from our concrete supplier that we really should let the concrete 'cure' for at least 30 days prior to use. Otherwise, the new concrete would likely develop significant cracks from the rapid, extreme temperature changes that moving a pile of warm compost on and off the pad would create. Since the pad would have embedded liquid-filled tubing, there would be a risk of damaging the tubing and/or developing leaks in the tubing.

We are now comfortable with our design and plan to begin construction in August such that we will have plenty of time to cure the pad prior to heating season. Also, we will have something to show and discuss with International Plant Propagators' (IPPS) conference tour participants on October 1. For more information on the conference, see <http://www.ipps.org/EasternNA/meeting.htm> and see Tour B at http://www.ipps.org/EasternNA/tours/conference_tours.html.

Adjustments to project design:

We may adjust need to the footprint/size of the concrete pad to account for changes in material costs since the original grant budget was created. We will make a final determination on this when we verify prices with concrete and tubing vendors this July/August.

Affect on schedule:

Here is our updated timeline - fall 2010 through spring 2012 (changes are marked in red)

July – August 2010	Verify material prices with concrete and tubing vendors, etc. Adjust pad size to remain within project budget.
October 2009 August 2010 –	Begin and complete site work, install tubing and concrete pad. Crushed asphalt rap has already been delivered and spread during winter 2009-10.

<u>October 2010</u>	
November 2009 <u>2010- January</u> <u>December, 2010</u>	When outdoor temperatures cold, deliver freshly chipped materials - compost
November <u>2010</u> - January 2010 <u>2011</u>	When outdoor temperatures cold enough, begin monitoring compost temperatures, turn as needed
November <u>2010</u> - January 2010 <u>March, 2011</u>	When outdoor temperatures cold enough, circulate fluid, monitor outdoor and fluid temperatures as per project plan
February – March 2010 <u>2011</u>	If low compost temperatures after turning (indicate process is ‘finished’), remove compost and replace with freshly chipped materials (compost)
March – April 2010 <u>2011</u>	When outdoor temperatures rise, monitor compost temperatures, turn as needed, remove compost when temperatures stay warm or when compost finishes
March – April 2010 <u>2011</u>	Complete calculations, prepare 6-month report; contact winter trade conference and workshop organizers to arrange presentation opportunities
<u>Sept-Oct, 2010</u>	60th Anniversary Meeting of the IPPS (International Plant Propagators Conference) Eastern Region, September 29 th through October 2 nd , 2010, Crown Plaza Hotel in Warwick includes tour of RI Nurseries site. <u>We will feature project site showing pad with imbedded tubing, construction photos, explain data collection and anticipated results.</u>
September 2010 – March 2011 <u>2012</u>	Prepare and deliver presentations.
October 1 2009 <u>2010</u> – indefinitely	Offer site tours; particularly associated with trade shows, workshops and Master Gardener, Master Composter classes.

Affect on Outreach:

While we will not be able to discuss the finished project and outcome with IPPS tour participants this fall, we will show them the site and discuss the project goals. We can offer to follow up with a presentation at next year’s conference and/or send an e-notice to participants following the winter data collection and analysis.

Additional Potential Outreach Opportunity:

Fourth Annual New England Farm Energy Conference in March, 2011. See <http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/meetings/FarmEnergyConf3-10.html> for more information on this conference.

Extension Request:

This request is a written follow-up on phone conversions with Bruce and each grantor in early March. Respectfully submitted by Sanne Kure-Jensen on behalf of Bruce Vanicek.