

NEASPB - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Northeast Section of the American Society of Plant Biologists (NEASPB)

Article I. Name and Legal Identity

The name of this organization shall be the **NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT BIOLOGISTS**, hereafter referred to as NEASPB or the Section. It is a geographical affinity group of the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB).

The Section shall operate in a manner consistent with ASPB's Constitution and Bylaws and all applicable policies of ASPB. In the event of a conflict, ASPB's Constitution and Bylaws shall govern.

Article II. Purposes

The Section is organized and operated exclusively for its stated scientific and educational purposes and **not for the private financial gain of any individual member, officer, director, or other private person**; any excess revenues shall be retained and used to further the Section or ASPB's purpose.

Its purposes are:

1. To encourage and promote scientific endeavors in plant biology across basic and applied disciplines.
2. To **foster the career development of young researchers**.
3. To promote the welfare and fellowship of plant biologists in the Northeast U.S. (ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, DE, NJ, NY, and PA).
4. To further the science of plant biology and the purposes of ASPB within the Section's geographic area.

Article III. Membership

1. **Eligibility:** Section membership is open to all plant biologists residing in the Northeast states or any person/organization philosophically aligned with the Section's purposes.
2. **Dues:** Section membership requires payment of **annual dues**, which shall be set by the ASPB Board of Directors to be consistent with other ASPB sections. Membership in the Section does not confer membership in the national body, the American Society of Plant Biologists.
3. **Rights:** All individual Section members in good standing have the right to vote in Section elections, be nominated for Section office, and serve as an official representative to the ASPB. The right to serve the Section is subject to such qualifications or requirements as established by the Section executive committee.

Article IV. Leadership and Officers

1. **Officer Positions:** The officers shall be a Chair and a Secretary-Treasurer
2. **Other Section Executive Committee Members:** The Section Executive Committee shall also consist of three elected members, a section representative to the ASPB Membership Committee and Council, and an early career scientist.
3. **Terms:**
 - The **Chair** shall serve for one year. The Chair's duties consist of organizing and presiding over the annual meeting and providing leadership to the Section. The Chair is elected by the Executive Committee. The term can be extended for one year.

- The **Secretary-Treasurer** shall serve a three-year term to ensure financial continuity, keep and make available the minutes of the Section Executive Committee and general business meetings held at the Section's Annual meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer will coordinate with ASPB staff to monitor funds and communications related to the NEASPB.
 - The terms of the other Section Executive Committee members described above shall be as follows: the three elected members serve three-year terms; the section representative to the national ASPB shall serve a three-year term; and the graduate student or postdoctoral representative shall serve a two-year term and shall be recruited by the Section Executive Committee based on its review and ranking of applications to serve.
 - All members of the Executive Committee can be re-elected for a second consecutive term and may be nominated for additional terms after not serving for a term.
 - Section Executive Committee member terms shall commence on October 1st to coincide with national ASPB officer term dates.
4. **Duties:**
- The Section Executive Committee shall carry on any business of the Section that may require action between business meetings.
 - The representative to national ASPB will act as a liaison to ASPB Council and the Membership Committee. The Section representative shall attend all ASPB committee meetings and Plant Biology conferences, and if they cannot attend, the secretary/treasurer must be informed in time to request that an alternate member of the Section Executive Committee to attend the corresponding committee meeting or Plant Biology national ASPB conference as a proxy representative.

Article V. Election of Officers

1. **Process:** Nominations for members of the Section Executive Committee can be performed electronically prior to, or in attendance at, the Annual meeting. Elections shall be conducted by secret electronic ballot following the annual meeting to ensure broad participation.
2. **Vacancies:** If an office becomes vacant, the Executive Committee shall fill it on an interim basis until the next election. If the Chair position is vacated, one of the Executive Committee members shall assume the chairpersonship.

Article VI. Meetings and Quorum

1. **Annual Meeting:** There shall be at least one annual meeting held between March and June, at a time or place that does not conflict with the annual meeting of the Society or other national ASPB-sponsored events.
2. **Quorum:** A business meeting will be conducted during the annual meeting; a quorum shall consist of 12 NEASPB Section members in good standing plus at least two members of the Section Executive Committee. Action taken at the annual meeting will stand unless, within six months, a minimum of two percent of the Section membership petitions the Secretary/Treasurer to have the action submitted to the Section members for ratification by mail or electronic ballot.
3. **Executive Committee Quorum:** Section Executive Committee decisions require a 60% quorum.

Article VII. Awards

1. **Awards:** The Section shall recognize meritorious research by students of all levels and postdocs through cash prizes and certificates for the best oral and poster presentations given during the Section annual meeting.

2. **Travel Awards:** The Section may provide travel awards to early career scientists to cover registration and lodging for Section meetings. There will be an application process prior to the Section meeting.
3. **Distinguished Service:** An award may be established to recognize members for outstanding contributions to the Section or the field of plant biology.

Article VIII. Rules of Order

Any procedural points not covered in this document shall be decided by resort to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Article IX. Amendments

1. **Proposals:** Proposals for amendments may be submitted in writing by any member, group of members, or committee to the Secretary-Treasurer.
2. **Approval:** Upon approval by a majority of the Section Executive Committee, amendments will be presented to the membership for a 30-day comment period.
3. **Adoption:** Revisions to the Constitution and amendments are adopted if approved by a majority of members voting via electronic ballot.