

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANTS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Georgia Association of Professional Agricultural Consultants.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

- Section 1** Promote the profession of agricultural consulting.
- Section 2** Encourage and assist members to maintain proficiency in pest management and other agricultural practices via publications, technical workshops, and short courses.
- Section 3** Encourage and aid agricultural research.
- Section 4** Aid agricultural producers in the production of their crops with the most effective, economical, and environmentally sound techniques.
- Section 5** Provide a balanced view to the public of the importance of agricultural pests, agricultural pest control, and the role of agricultural consultants.
- Section 6** Provide technical assistance in the drafting of legislation affecting agriculture.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERS

- Section 1** All members must be approved by a majority vote of the full members in an attendance at an official associational meeting.
- Section 2** There shall be seven (7) classes of members: (1) Full, (2) Associate, (3) Provisional, (4) Student, (5) Retired, (6) Sustaining, and (7) Advisory. Only Full members shall have voting privileges.
- Section 3** A full member must be engaged in agricultural consulting and meet the following requirements:
(1) An independent crop consultant providing recommendations and/or technical data for a fee that is itemized and billed to the clients; and who receives no compensation from a client's purchase of and/or application of products based on those recommendations and/or data and further, if compensated as an employee whose compensation is not subsidized or supplemented by any portion of the employer's revenue which is derived from the sale of products.

(2) Members must maintain a current commercial pesticide applicator's license and be certified with commercial ground equipment, Category 21 with the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

Section 4 Those eligible for membership as charter members are the independent consultants known to be active and who have paid their dues as of June 1, 1990. Also, those charter members and any full members may not be employed by any government agency such as the extension service or the USDA.

Section 5 New members: To qualify for Full membership after June 1, 1990, applicants must complete a membership application form that has been signed by two full members of the association as sponsors and has provided references of individuals or other entities for whom the candidate has personally provided consultation and service. The applicant must possess a B.S. or B.A. or higher degree in Agriculture, Pest Management, or Biology and two years experience as a full-time crop consultant. A person with a non-agriculture related degree and six years experience as a full-time crop consultant may also qualify. The applicant shall agree with the objectives of the association and has agreed in writing to conform to the Code of Ethics of the association.

All applicants must have a current Georgia Department of Agriculture pesticide applicator's license and be certified commercial with ground equipment, Category 21. Membership applications will be submitted timely to the membership committee chairman for review and to contact references. Applicants must be approved by majority of full members of the association at the next officially scheduled meeting.

Section 6 Associate members: To qualify for associate membership an applicant must submit a completed membership application and meet all requirements of a full member with the exception of involvement of the sale of and/or application of products that preclude voting membership.

Section 7 Provisional members: To qualify for provisional membership an applicant must support the missions and goals of the association and submit a completed membership application though the individual may not meet all requirements of full membership at the time of application; it is possible to move to other membership categories when specific requirements are satisfied.

Section 8 Student members: To qualify for student membership an applicant must be enrolled in an academic training program and submit a completed membership application.

Section 9 Retired members: To qualify for retired membership an individual must be retired from active crop consulting and previously held voting membership in the association for at least three years and submit a completed membership application.

Section 10 **Sustaining members: To qualify for sustaining membership an entity must contribute \$350.00 annually and be approved by majority of full membership.**

Section 11 **Advisory members: To be appointed as an advisory member the individual must be nominated by a full member, seconded by another full member, and approved by a majority of the full membership at an officially scheduled meeting.**

ARTICLE IV – MEETING

Section 1 **An annual meeting shall be held as specified by the Executive Committee. Additional meetings may also be called by the Executive Committee.**

Section 2 **An official meeting shall be any meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association membership held in accordance with the By-laws and attended by a quorum.**

Section 3 **A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be the number in attendance; a quorum of the Association shall be fifty percent of the voting membership.**

Section 4 **All business shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order.**

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

Section 1 **The President shall (a) be the directing head of the Association; (b) perform the usual duties of this office; and (c) serve a two-year term of office.**

Section 2 **The Vice-President (a) shall serve in all capacities as the presiding officer in the absence of the President; (b) shall, at the request of the President, assist in the performance of any functional duties; (c) serve as an ex-officio member of all Associational committees; and serve for a two-year period. At the end of this two-year term, the Vice-President shall serve as President for a two-year period.**

Section 3 **The Secretary-Treasurer shall (a) receive and disburse all the funds of the Association and shall submit at the annual meeting a written report of all receipts and disbursements; (b) keep a complete record of the meetings and distribute said records to the membership; (c) prepare a report of all proceedings of the Association; (d) maintain a register of all members of the Association; and (e) serve a three-year term of office.**

ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

The Executive Committee of the Association shall be composed of the President, Vice, President, Secretary-Treasurer, past President, at least one elected regular member at large and one Advisory member (all to be elected at the annual meeting). This body shall be responsible for reviewing the qualifications of all members and administration of the association.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Section 1** Election of the officers and members at large shall be accomplished by vote of the membership as provided in the By-laws.
- Section 2** Vacancies occurring between elections shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES

The President of the Association shall appoint committees to perform such work as he deems necessary.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be altered or amended at the Annual Meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present.

BYLAWS

- 1. Annual dues shall be a minimum of \$50.00 for all full, provisional, and associate members. Dues for sustaining members are to be \$350.00 per year. There will be no dues for advisory, student, or retired members. All dues must be paid by March 1st each year, or membership is revoked.**
- 2. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the association at the annual meeting. Nominations for each office shall be presented by the Nominating Committee and other nominations shall be accepted from the floor.**
- 3. Standing committees shall be for one-year terms and be as follows:**

A. Membership and Rules Committee

- 1. Members of this committee shall consist of the Executive Committee (see Article VI).**
- 2. Duties of this committee are as follows;**
 - (a) Solicit new members.**
 - (b) Receive membership applications and review qualifications of nominees prior to presentation for vote of full members.**

DATE OF REVISION: February 2, 2011