OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Nursery & Christmas Tree Program
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Nursery Research Grant Program

2025 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

SUBMISSIONS

Please send proposals in PDF format via email to nursery@oda.oregon.gov by no later than **August 31, 2024 (Wednesday), 5pm PST.**

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), in cooperation with the Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN), annually award financial grants to support research that would benefit the Oregon nursery industry. These grants are funded primarily through the Nursery Research Assessment Fee, paid to the ODA through Oregon nursery license fees. In 2024, ten projects were supported with a total allocation of approximately $248,333.

OBJECTIVES

Grants are awarded to projects which focus on five main categories that result in:

- CROP IMPROVEMENT\YIELD INCREASES
- MICROBIAL PATHOGEN\ENTOMOLOGICAL PEST SOLUTIONS
- WEED CONTROL
- LABOR SAVING TECHNIQUES
- SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

Issues of particular importance to Oregon growers and the review committee can be found on page 4 of this document.

FORMAT

Proposals should succinctly outline the project and describe how the work directly benefits the Oregon nursery industry and is applicable to at least one of the five categories listed above. Please keep proposals to 2 pages or less. Industry

collaboration is vital to conducting research that will have a practical impact. Proposals who have an Oregon industry collaborator in place should list them accordingly. If you do not have an industry collaborator, please indicate if you would be willing to partner with one. Proposals must include the following information to be considered in full:

- **Contacts**: Name of principal investigator and collaborators, name of institution, contact information (address, phone and email). Please identify the point of contact for the project. This is the person whom the ODA will be in contact with about grant administration.
- **Background:** Please clearly state how this research benefits the Oregon nursery industry.
- **Project objectives and outcomes:** What are the expected deliverables?
- **Methods:** How will the project achieve the stated objectives?
- **Timeline:** Outline how the project will be carried out over the course of the calendar year to meet proposed objectives.
- **Budget:** Include personnel hours/rates, cost of travel, supplies, and any other costs associated with the work.

(** Indirect costs are unallowable under the Nursery Research Grant Program. Indirect costs, also known as Facilities and Administrative Costs, are those costs incurred for a common* or *joint purpose benefitting more than one (1) cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objective specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved.*)

EVALUATION

Submissions are reviewed and prioritized by representatives from the nursery industry. A submitter may be asked to modify & re-submit a proposal if the committee decides it warrants further review. The committee makes the final selection of awardees. Grant awards are issued by the ODA. The workplan for projects must be for activities spanning one-calendar year. However, if multiple years of funding will be required for the successful completion of your project, please indicate this in your proposal. Please note that projects from outside of Oregon may not be funded if an interstate contract cannot be established to meet the interests of ODA. Proposals will be evaluated considering:

- Clear, realistic objectives and outcomes of the proposed project
- Relevance of the project to the objectives of Oregon nursery growers
- Active collaboration with a partner in Oregon
- Transparent, concise, and appropriate use of funds

For questions about the funding process, please contact the ODA (nursery@oda.oregon.gov). For additional information about the grant program, visit the research page hosted by the Oregon Association of Nurseries.

DELIVERABLES

A brief written mid-year progress report and a final report, detailing the research results are required as part of the grant process. Reports must be submitted to the ODA for invoices/awards to be approved. Please refer to the grant calendar posted on the ODA Nursery Research Grant Program page here. In addition, awardees will be required to present their findings at the annual Farwest Show, either in-person or remotely, and will be contacted by the OAN to coordinate a time to present your research. More information on the Farwest Show can be found here.

AWARDS

Final award letters will be delivered via e-mail by the ODA. Funding for all approved projects is provided in the following allotments:

- 50% paid upon project approval and full execution of the award agreement with the ODA.
- 25% paid upon receipt and approval of mid-year report
- 25% payment paid upon receipt and approval of a final report

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about the program or the application process, please email: nursery@oda.oregon.gov .

For a list of funded projects (2019-2023) and final reports from previous years' awardees (through 2018), please visit our Nursery Research Grant Program page at here.

Disclaimer: Per statute 571.230, collected funds are for the benefit of the industry and the research does not benefit the Oregon Department of Agriculture as a state agency. These research funds are collected by the ODA on behalf of growers through a licensing or surcharge fee.

Specific Areas of Interest to Oregon Growers

Crop Improvement\Yield Increases

- Preventing boxwood "halo" in container plants
- Best management practices for Olive production in soilless media (water, nutrition, pruning)
- Nutritional requirements for Roses in containers that are held over for another year
- Preventing branch abortion on lower trunk of Taylor Junipers
- Effective methods to monitor water needs of container plants
- Post-harvest physiology and transplant success at customer sites

Microbial Pathogen\Entomological Pest Solutions

- Bacterial Blight control methods without copper (Pseduomonas and Xanthomonas)
- Vascular Streak Dieback in Redbuds
- Ambrosia beetle control methods
- Boxwood leaf miner control methods in field and containers
- General Biopesticide Solutions
- Garden Symphylans control
- Thrip control methods
- Mite control methods (specifically maple mites)
- Flatheaded and Shothole borer control
- Aphid control
- Phytophthora control on both soil and foliar/stem tissue
- Fire blight solutions
- Botrytis control, specifically brought on by cooler storage
- Bacterial Leaf Spot control
- Downy Mildew Control
- Wooly apple aphid (root stage) control
- Podgall midge control
- Lygus control
- Symphylans control
- Wireworm control, specifically preventing drip tape damage
- Amber snail control
- Crown Gall solutions
- Phytopthera syringae control
- Pseuodomonas syringae control
- Fusarium (specifically tree canker) control
- Black Vine Weevil Control
- Rodent solutions

Weed Control

- Nostoc Algae control methods
- Groundsel control methods in container plants
- Bittercress control methods (in field or container plants)
- Liverwort control methods in container plants
- Burn down herbicide usage vs. Roundup
- Yellow crest control methods
- Horsetail control methods
- New Product testing in collaboration with nursery partners
- Pennsylvania smart weed control
- Nutsedge control methods

Labor Saving Technology/ Labor Improvement Through Education

- Student education / training / internships
- Technology / automation to mitigate labor challenges
- Effective education on disease cycles for growers
- Drone spraying improvements
- Wireless technology for pumps, valves, and drip systems
- Sensor networks improvements, specifically using LoRaWAN protocols for communication
- Software that helps with inventory, costing, production planning, and land management

Sustainable Environmental Improvements

- Wood Fiber substitute for peat in soilless media
- Strip till planting systems
- Effective use of buffer strips or sediment ponds
- Use of polyacrylamide monomer (PAM) as a soil treatment

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