

Request for Proposal

*Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers
Hood River, Oregon*

HISTORY

Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers (CGFG) is a 501(c)(5) nonprofit entity that represents the pear, cherry, and apple growers in five counties in the Mid-Columbia region: Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman counties in Oregon; and Klickitat and Skamania counties in Washington.

Our mission is to encourage and promote the tree fruit industry through research, education, legislation, and marketing; and to support growers through the exchange of information regarding sound practices and regulations. We collaborate with our industry partners to follow research-based best practices that protect our farm employees, the environment, and the future of the tree fruit industry in the Mid-Columbia. Since its inception, CGFG has advocated for research-based agricultural policies, invested in scientific studies to identify practices that benefit people and the environment, and provided educational opportunities for growers and farm employees to ensure safe workplaces.

Pear varieties grown in the region include summer pears (Bartlett and Starkrimson) and winter pears (Anjou/Red Anjou, Bosc, and other minor varieties including Gem, Comice, Forelle, and Seckel). Many varieties of dark sweet cherries are grown in the region. Apples are a very small percentage of fruit grown in the region and therefore not a high research priority.

FUNDING

CGFG has an annual budget of approximately \$80,000 to dedicate to research projects. The organization is funded by voluntary tonnage assessments paid by fruit growers. Since these assessments are based on tonnage of fruit, our annual budget fluctuates each year due to crop size and quality. For this reason, it is possible that research funding may change year-to-year. Research has been identified as a top priority by our members; therefore, we attempt to maintain a consistent budget dedicated to research.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Each year, our research committee identifies high, medium, and low priorities for pear and cherry research (see priority matrices included in RFP). However, projects outside of these topics are also eligible for funding. We encourage anyone with potential research that may benefit the tree fruit industry to submit proposals.

Between 15 – 30% of our budget is from cherry assessments; due to this, our organization prefers to dedicated funding to at least one cherry-focused project each year while the others are typically focused on pear research. Projects focused on other topics (for example, labor reduction, technology applications, etc.) that support the tree fruit industry at large are also eligible. Ultimately, the research committee has the flexibility to recommend projects outside of this preference at their discretion and the board of directors has the flexibility to approve projects for funding.

SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

To submit research proposals, please submit to both CGFG and OSU Agricultural Research Foundation.

- To submit to CGFG, send via email (with proposal attached) to office@cgfg.org
- To submit to OSU Agricultural Research Foundation, follow the link to the OSU ARF/Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers portal and follow the instructions for naming and uploading your file.

<https://agresearchfoundation.oregonstate.edu/webform/columbia-gorge-fruit-growers>

CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information, please contact Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers.

Email: office@cgfg.org

Mail: PO Box 168, Odell, OR 97044

Phone: (541) 387-4769

ANNUAL SCHEDULE

February 28 th	<p>Continuing or final reports for previous years' research project(s) due.</p> <p>If submitting final report, it should be a formal written report submitted by the due date.</p> <p>If submitting a continuing report, it can be a formal written report submitted by the due date OR researchers may attend the research committee meeting held in March (in-person or virtually) to verbally present an informal continuing report.</p> <p>Submit reports via email to: office@cgfg.org</p> <p>Any written reports submitted will be distributed to research committee members for review.</p>
Third Week of March	<p>Research committee meets with local researchers; others invited to attend as needed.</p> <p>Meeting Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Review RFP annual schedule • Presentation of continuing and final reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Short summaries of last year's research projects and progress/results; this can be an informal verbal presentation. ○ Research committee members ask questions for clarification/discussion. • Priorities for current year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion of research priorities. ○ Researchers can discuss potential research ideas to gauge interest. ○ Update priority matrices.
First Week of April	Updated Request for Proposal is distributed.
September 15 th	Research proposals are due for submission by midnight on September 15 th of each year. See submission instructions for more information.
Last Week of September	<p>Research committee meets to review and discuss project proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers that have submitted proposals are invited to attend this meeting (in-person or remotely) to discuss the proposal and/or answer questions from committee members. • Committee finalizes funding recommendation for the board of directors.
Third Week of October	<p>Board of directors meeting; board receives research committee recommendation.</p> <p>After directors approve committee recommendation, applicants will be informed of funding awards (pending membership approval of next year's annual budget).</p>
Third Week of November	Board of directors meeting; board approves budget for the following year.
Mid-December	The CGFG annual membership meeting is held to formally approve the budget for the following year.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Written proposals must include the following:

Project Title

Contact Information

Phone number and email address for contact.

PI/Co-PI

A Co-PI designation means that the individual is fully engaged throughout the project duration and is contributing to the scientific research of the project.

Cooperators

A cooperator is a company that is donating products or services, or an individual serving in an advisory capacity. List cooperators involved in the project.

Project Duration

Include the duration of the project (in years).

Total Project Request

Include the total amount of your funding request.

Other Funding Sources

If you are soliciting funding from other agencies, include names and dollar amount you have requested or will request. Specify if funding has been requested or awarded.

Budget

Budget tables should reflect your needs for each year of the entire project. Please round to whole dollars.

Justification

Provide a summary (using lay-person language) that reveals how this research project will benefit the growers of tree fruits. Describe the need for the research and the subject to be investigated. If your proposed research addresses an issue targeted by researchers before, explain why ongoing or new research is important.

Objectives

Identify each objective in the proposal. Objectives should be specific and describe the targeted goals of the proposed project. Indicate how this research meets the priorities identified in the RFP or within the industry.

Methods

Describe the procedures and methodology to be used, types and timing of anticipated results, and any potential problems or limitations that may be encountered.

CGFG PRIORITY MATRIX: PEARS

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Pest & Disease Management	Pear psylla management Brown Marmorated Stink Bug management	Fire blight Mites	
Postharvest & Fruit Quality	Decay control (Mucor, etc.) Scald control Cold room atmosphere/temperature	Scuffing prevention	
Horticulture	Crop load management of Anjou set Dwarfing rootstock for pears (including irrigation practices for dwarfing rootstocks)	Contract vs. hourly pruning – effect on yield, pest pressure, etc. Irrigation needs during light crop years Soil nutrition (including soil differences in clean weed strips vs. strips with some vegetation)	How long to run fans after sun comes up during frost season – is it necessary to continue running fans for a certain length of time?
Technology		Spray automation practices	
Other Areas of Interest		Improved crop estimation – accurate methods for predicting crop size	

CGFG PRIORITY MATRIX: CHERRIES

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Pest & Disease Management	Spotted Wing Drosophila Powdery Mildew Control of leaf hoppers/vectors	Bacterial canker Thrips – improved chemical program and methods to control the environment that creates higher thrips pressure to mitigate mid-to-late season fruit marking	Mammal control – defoliation of trees due to deer
Postharvest & Fruit Quality	Heat mitigation Cracking due to hydrocooling	Brown Rot	
Horticulture	Irrigation – how it relates to firmness and size of cherries Nutrition	Cold hardiness for cherry buds	
Technology			
Other Areas of Interest		Tree architecture and training systems (specific to variety)	