Western Cascade Fruit Society

GUIDELINES for Fruit Research Proposals

Western Cascade Fruit Society (WCFS) was formed to bring people together to promote the science, cultivation, and pleasure of growing fruit trees, shrubs, vines, and berries in the home landscape. The Society's purpose is to provide the public with the knowledge and ability to cultivate their own fruits, to encourage and support formation of chapters in Western Washington, and to disseminate information to members and the public through fruit shows, orchard tours, meetings, seminars, workshops, publications and other media. Finally, WCFS provides financial and other support to fruit research organizations.

Applicants should undertake research on fruits able to be grown in western Washington State. Areas of interest might include, but are not limited to, fruit quality, inter-stem use and testing, propagation, pest and disease management, rootstocks, productivity, orchard design, structural support systems, pruning, grafting, soil amendments, pollination improvement, growing fruit trees in containers, and new technologies that are small-scale in scope and affordable and relevant to the home orchardist.

Projects must be of importance to the WCFS membership and be practical in nature. Proposals must be adequately justified, scientifically sound, have clearly-stated objectives, and a high likelihood of reaching those objectives in a timely manner.

Funds are made available for one- or two-year projects. The second year of funding is contingent upon the applicant providing an annual report to WCFS upon completion of the first year's work. Subsequent years may be funded annually if an application is submitted and accepted after the first two years.

The following are detailed guidelines for each section of the application.

SECTION 1 – TITLE & APPLICANT INFORMATION

TITLE of fruit research project: Provide a succinct, specific summary of your proposed work.

Include all of the requested applicant information.

Amount ($) Requested: Projects are funded for up to 2 years. Second year funding will be contingent upon WCFS receiving an annual report.

SECTION 2 – RATIONALE - (the "WHY" of the work; the importance and relevance of the work; include a summary of background information of this area of interest, and any previous related work)

- **This is your introduction and informs us of what new, useable knowledge you intend to generate. Describe how the project benefits backyard and hobby fruit growers in western Washington.**
- **State the importance, relevance, and/or significance of the work.**
- **Reference previous work and briefly describe the outcome of that work to demonstrate what research (if any) has been done in this or a related area. If literature is cited, please include the full references at the end of the application under the reference section.**
- **Tell us how your work will help fill-in some of the missing pieces of needed information.**
- **Throughout the application, be sure to spell out the full names of any acronyms so reviewers know what you are talking about. Avoid jargon.**

SECTION 3 – OBJECTIVES -- The questions that you are hoping to answer

- **State specific research questions you are hoping to answer.**
- **Describe the expected final outcome of your work.**

SECTION 4 - MATERIALS AND METHODS -- the "HOW" of your work

- **Materials:**
  Allowable expenditures:
    List costs of equipment, building and planting supplies, lab services, cultivars, and potential suppliers. The list may include a description and

cost of any treatments and controls involved (for example, fertilizer vs no fertilizer, a particular sprinkler-system vs hand-watering; grafting tools, fencing materials for espalier, netting for pest management, etc.)

- *PLEASE NOTE:* The WCFS research grant *does not cover salary or wages*. However, limited reimbursement for anticipated, necessary technical management may be allowable.

- <u>Methods</u>:

  What is your research plan? Describe tasks involved in addressing your objectives.
  How will you measure progress?
  Include your experimental design with any applicable statistical analyses.

SECTION 5 - TIME-LINE

- **Start and completion dates**

- **Time schedule of anticipated stages of the project. A summary-table with anticipated dates of task-completions would be helpful for evaluation.**

SECTION 6 – EXPECTATIONS AND SIGNATURE – see the application form

Committee Scoring System for WCFS Research Proposals
(Helpful in understanding how the Committee weighs each section)

Proposal sections to be evaluated (corresponding sections outlined in the application):

1) <u>Title & Information</u>

Assessment scale and criteria (0 – 1)

0   = Information not complete; title does not match the proposal

1   = All information included; appropriate title

2) <u>Rationale</u>

Assessment scale and criteria (0 – 4)

0 = Poor -- Misunderstanding of the mission to help the backyard orchardist in the PNW; not relevant to the mission; unclear.

1 = Modest -- The proposed work has some potential and merit, but overall is inconsistent in terms of quality and significance; could result in some useful knowledge and benefit for the back-yard orchardist in the PNW.

2 = Good -- The proposed work is of merit, meets satisfactory standards of quality and significance for the back-yard orchardist in the PNW. References to previous or similar work are included if applicable. Clearly stated.

3 = Very Good -- The proposed work meets high standards of quality and significance for the back-yard orchardist in the PNW. References to previous or similar work are included if applicable. Clearly stated.

4 = Excellent -- The proposed work meets excellent standards of quality and significance for the back-yard orchardist in the PNW. References to previous or similar work are included if applicable. Clearly stated.

3) <u>Objectives</u>

Assessment scale and criteria (0 – 4)

0 = Poor -- Misunderstanding of the mission to help the backyard orchardist in the PNW. Is not related to the rationale of the work.

1 = Modest -- The proposed work has some potential and merit, but overall is inconsistent in terms of quality and significance; could result in some useful knowledge and benefit for the back-yard orchardist in the PNW. Does not include clear questions to address.

2 = Good -- The proposed work is of merit, meets satisfactory standards of quality and significance for the back-yard orchardist in the PNW. Addresses reasonably important questions.

3 = Very Good -- The proposed work meets high standards of quality and significance for the back-yard orchardist in the PNW. Addresses important questions in terms of quality and significance. Questions are clearly written.

4 = Excellent -- The proposed work meets excellent standards of quality and significance for the back-yard orchardist in the PNW. Addresses highly important questions. Superior proposal.

4) Materials & Methods

Assessment scale and criteria (0 – 4)

0 = Poor – not addressed.

1 = Modest – Incomplete and unclear; needs to be developed/reworked.

2 = Good --   Basically clear and understandable; does need to be developed/fleshed out.

3= Very Good -- Clear and complete.

4 = Excellent -- Clear and complete. Addresses what resources will be needed and how results will be analyzed. Details completely addressed.

5) Time-line

Assessment scale and criteria (0 – 2)

0 = Not included or not possible/feasible

1 = Unrealistic, but has potential

2   = Feasible and realistic

**TOTAL OF 15
POINTS POSSIBLE**

Western Cascade Fruit Society

Fruit Research Grant APPLICATION FORM
Deadlines: January 15 or July 15

The following is required information. Your proposal will not be reviewed unless all six sections are completed. Application must be received by 11:59 pm on January 15 PST for March funding, or July 15 PDT for September funding.

SECTION 1 – TITLE AND APPLICANT INFORMATION

TITLE of fruit research project:
_____

Name of person or organization requesting funds:
_____

Contact person: _____   **Phone:**
_____

Mailing address: _____   **Email:**
_____

Address of project site:
_____

Total Amount ($) Requested: _____

   Amount Year 1 _____
   Amount Year 2 (if applicable) _____
   Provide information about other sources of funding if this proposal is part of a larger project.

SECTION 2 - RATIONALE

SECTION 3 – OBJECTIVES

SECTION 4 - MATERIALS AND METHODS

SECTION 5 - TIME-LINE

REFERENCES CITED (if applicable)

- **Author, date, journal-, text-, or source-name, page #s**
- **If a personal communication: author, date, pers.com**

SECTION 6 – EXPECTATIONS AND SIGNATURE

By completing and submitting this application, you understand that this information and other pertinent data will be used by WCFS to make a determination of eligibility.

If funding is approved and received by you, you agree to:

- **Perform the research you have outlined to the best of your ability**
- **Provide quarterly progress reports to the committee.   Upon approval of funding, you will receive report due-dates and outlines of requested information. Please keep in mind that even if you have been approved for a second year of funding, it will be contingent upon WCFS receiving the first year's annual report.**
- **Upon project completion, make a final presentation of your results to WCFS and/or provide information for WCFS publications.**

_____   _____   _____
Individual applicant or authorized   **Title**   **Date**
organization representative