

Request for Proposals – Horticultural and Environmental Research
Submission deadline: February 14, 2025

Dear Researcher:

I am pleased to present this year's Request for Proposals (RFP) and Guidelines for submitting proposals. The highest priority areas of research for the Cranberry Institute are:

- Screening and evaluating newer and safer pest management materials. The industry is concerned by the continuing loss of older crop control chemicals and efforts are needed to obtain newer effective products for use in both conventional and organic production.
- Optimizing inputs/maximizing farm efficiency. Investigating methods to increase efficiency by optimizing inputs, including pesticides, fertilizers, water, sand, etc. For example, this area of research could include alternative pest management techniques that would reduce overall pesticide inputs or ways to increase efficacy through changes in timing or other factors, or focus on impacts to plant health and/or fruit quality resulting from stressors due to weather extremes (e.g. overabundance/lack of water, tolerance to heat/cold stress).

Other areas of research that may be considered for funding (in no particular order):

- Insects, weeds and diseases. These proposals would address current pest problems and screen for emerging pests as a result of the loss of broad-spectrum chemicals. The RFP needs to provide evidence describing the scope and importance of the particular pest being researched. Current examples include moss, scale, cranberry weevil, flea beetle and false blossom disease.
- Fruit Quality. Handlers require high fruit quality from their growers, so research is needed in a number of different areas. In addition to the need for new strategies for controlling field and storage rots, proposals could look at grower management practices that can, for example, reduce/avoid mechanical damage to the fruit during harvest; improve canopy management and influence fruit characteristics such as fruit firmness, size and color including the uniformity of these characteristics.
- Nutrient Management. Projects in this category should look at: ways to minimize the impact of fertilization practices on water quality; optimizing the application amount and timing for sustainable bed health and productivity.

- Plant Physiology. These projects investigate aspects of plant biology to better understand cranberry development that will improve production and pest control practices. This would include rigorous testing of “biostimulants”, plant growth regulators and other growth / yield enhancers.
- Cultural Issues. These are projects that look at current cultural practices to see how they can be improved. Examples include: frost management; pollination practices; sanding and pruning; cultural practices effect on pollinators; water management.
- Breeding. Developing new cranberry varieties with improved plant characteristics such as increased fruit rot resistance, fruit firmness, pest tolerance/resistance, uniform color and size, increased brix and fruit sweetness.

Note: The CI encourages collaboration and will look for proposals that include researchers working across regions. Also, if researchers are applying to multiple organizations, a proposal must be submitted to each organization. CI also encourages projects on Big Data usage, ag innovation, and precision ag.

Those who received funding in 2024 need to submit a Final (or Interim) Report by February 14, 2025 for funding consideration in 2025.

Research proposals under consideration for funding are reviewed and evaluated by the CI Horticultural Committee. They are then scored based upon two criteria:

1. Research Priority

- **Importance:** Is the proposal important to production systems and does it have handler and/or grower impact?
- **Project feasibility:** What is the feasibility of the proposal accomplishing its objectives?
- **Sound Science:** Does the proposal exhibit sound science?
- **Investigator:** Has the investigator done solid work in the past? Do they have the ability to move the dial (e.g. publications, applicability on farm)?

2. Inter-Regional Impact. Does the proposal have impact across all or most growing regions?

Proposals will be evaluated on their merit against the listed priorities. Those falling outside the realm of these priorities may be considered if they align well with the CI’s mission of providing our Supporting Members and cranberry growers with valued agricultural and environmental research. While the duration of a single project may be in excess of one year, funding decisions are made on an annual basis. Therefore, a multi-year project funded in one year is not guaranteed funding in subsequent years. Requests for additional funds for multi-year projects should be in the form of a new proposal.

Grants are awarded as unrestricted gifts. The Cranberry Institute is a non-profit organization and will not pay administrative overhead. The deadline for proposal submission is Friday, February 14, 2025. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by April 7, 2025.

Proposals should be submitted in electronic form. Please see the attached Guidelines for the required format. Included with this RFP are Guidelines for Submission, a list of potential Funding Stakeholders and Final Report Guidelines. Please note there have been some changes to the Guidelines for Grant Proposals. Feel free to distribute this RFP to other interested colleagues.

Researchers whose proposals are approved for funding will be asked to sign a Pesticide Non-Disclosure Policy and will be requested to indicate details about how, where and to whom, the award is to be sent. If you have any questions, please call or email me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William C. Frantz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Sincerely,
William Frantz, Executive Director

Guidelines for 2025 Horticultural and Environmental Grant Proposals

Proposals should be no more than five pages of 12-point, single-spaced text, submitted by email as a Microsoft Word or PDF document to Katie Ghantous (kghantous@cranberryinstitute.org). All proposals are due February 14, 2025. Applicants will be informed of their funding status by April 7, 2025. Proposal funding requirements should be stated in US Dollars. Proposals must include the following information:

Page 1 of the Proposal

- A. Title**
- B. Priority:** Identify the research priority (or priorities) your proposal addresses.
- C. Abstract:** Provide a concise summary of the project (150 words maximum).
- D. Project duration:** Start date & end date.
- E. Current Amount of Funding Requested this Year:** If a multiyear project, how much funding is needed this year.
- F. Principal Investigator:** The person responsible for research and expenditure of funds. Include address, telephone number and email address.
- G. Cooperators:** Researchers, students, growers, etc. who are directly involved in the project.

Pages 2 to 4 of the Proposal

- H. Background:** Explain the general concepts underlying the proposed research and summarize any existing studies pertaining to this project.
- I. Objectives:** List the goals of this research.
- J. Expected Outcome.**
- K. Justification:** Indicate how the project will contribute either to the region or the entire cranberry industry.
- L. Approach:** Outline materials and methods, and the regional location of the research. Describe any evaluation processes.

Page 5 of the Proposal

- M. Budget:** A breakout of the Total Amount Requested (Item D). Line items should cover anticipated labor costs, lab and supply materials, services, transportation costs plus any other costs relevant to the proposed project. Identify items such as a “grower match” for projects that have a cost-share requirement or “grower compensation” for crop loss or required crop destruction.
- N. Other funding organizations.** List of other funding groups/agencies receiving this proposal.

Page 6 (if applicable) Appendix A: - For proposals that involve unregistered compounds only

For any proposal that includes work with unregistered compounds, do not include compound names in the body of the proposal. Use simple, unidentifiable substitutes for pesticides. Suggestions include substitutes such as:

- Herbicide A, Herbicide B, etc.
- Product experimental numbers such as BAS490, ICla5504
- Referring to compound by pesticide class (e.g., sulfonylurea herbicide, IGR insecticide, strobilurin fungicide, etc.).

Include Appendix with your proposal that has a list of the unregistered compounds you plan to work with, and the corresponding codes you used in the body of your proposal.

Other Additional Pages – Relevant tables, figures, appendices, and references that may provide clarity to the proposal.

Note to applicants:

All applicants must read and sign a **Pesticide Non-Disclosure Policy** once their project is accepted and before funding is awarded.

Principal investigators who have not received funding from the Cranberry Institute within the last five years should submit a current Curriculum Vitae. If lengthy, list only publications and presentations within the last five years.

It is the policy of the Cranberry Institute to distribute funds over the course of two payments. One half of the award will be received with the acceptance letter. The second half is generally allocated in October. Under certain circumstances, exceptions to the payment schedule can be made. Contact the Cranberry Institute for details.

Those receiving a 2025 award are expected to submit a Final (or Interim) Report prior to February 13, 2026.

While the duration of a single project may be in excess of one year, funding decisions are made on an annual basis. Therefore, a multi-year project funded in one year is not guaranteed funding in subsequent years. Requests for additional funds for multi-year projects should be in the form of a new proposal.

FINAL RESEARCH REPORT GUIDELINES

A final (or interim) report detailing accomplishments and results must be submitted prior to the next granting cycle. If a project lasts more than a year, an interim report is expected.

Reports must be submitted as single spaced, 12-point font in either Microsoft Word or PDF format. Send reports electronically to Katie Ghantous (kghantous@cranberryinstitute.org) .

They must include the following information:

- A. Title.**
- B. Date.**
- C. Principal Investigator:** The person responsible for the project. Include address, telephone number and email address.
- D. Cooperators:** Researchers, students, growers, etc. who were involved in the project.
- E. Research objectives:** Restate the Objectives outlined in the original proposal. If applicable, describe any modifications made to these objectives.
- F. Summary of Accomplishments:** Describe results for each stated objective. Include tables and graphs to explain results and discuss the applicability of the results to cranberry culture.
- G. Literature Cited.**

**Cranberry Organizations Considering Funding for Horticultural and Environmental
Research 2025**

BC Cranberry Marketing Board

Contact: Trevor Hargreaves (info@bccranberries.com) (604) 375-8076

Canadian Cranberry Grower Coalition

Contact: Vincent Godin (vincent.godin@pampev.com)

Cranberry Research Foundation

Contact: Brian Wick (bwick@cranberries.org) (508) 866-7878

Cranberry Institute

Contact: Bill Frantz (bfrantz@cranberryinstitute.org) (508) 866-1118

Decas Cranberry Products

Contact: James Ross (jross@decascranberry.com) (774) 435-0184

Fruit D'Or

Contact: James Ross (jross@decascranberry.com) (774) 435-0184

Mariani Packing Company

Contact: David Rasmussen (drasmussen@mariani.com) (715) 423-5200

NJ Blueberry-Cranberry Research Council

Contact: Shawn Cutts (sccutts@comcast.net)

Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.

Contact: Rod Serres (rserres@oceanspray.com) (508) 923-3114

Oregon Cranberry Growers Association

Contact: Bob Donaldson (donaldsonbob@rocketmail.com) (541) 253-7563

WA Cranberry Commission

Contact: Jack Stein (jk.stein@comcast.net)

Wisconsin Cranberry Board, Inc.

Contact: Grant Holley (grant.holley@wiscran.org) (715) 423-2070