

MDA Horticulture Fund Fiscal Year 2008 Proposal Cover Sheet

(Cover sheet must not exceed one page)

Proposal Title:

Principal Investigator:

Name:

E-mail:

Department:

Mail Address:

Principal Investigator Please Complete:

Type of Project (check one)

Fiscal Year 2008 proposal

Continuation

Program Area (*check only one*)

Applied Research

Basic Research

Outreach/Training/Demonstration

**All correspondence will be mailed to Principal Investigator*

Team Members:

Synopsis of Proposal:

Potential Impact on Michigan Nursery/Ornamental Horticulture Industry:

Signatures:

Principal Investigator

Date

Lead Unit Administrator

Date

Request for Proposals MDA Horticulture Fund Fiscal Year 2008

INTRODUCTION

The Michigan Legislature created the Horticulture Fund within the state treasury on October 31, 2003 through a revision to The Insect Pests and Plant Diseases Act, Act 189 of 1931, as revised. Up to \$70,000 of funds will be generated each year through increases in nursery license fees. The fund was created with the following mission: *“to provide for research projects, to develop and improve training programs, and to develop outreach materials for the purposes of safeguarding plants and plant products from unwanted plant pests.”*

This is a competitive grant program. Horticulture Fund grants will be awarded up to a maximum annual amount of \$20,000 per approved proposal.

REQUEST

Proposals that benefit Michigan’s nursery and ornamental horticulture sectors by addressing industry priorities are requested. Research/extension priorities that have previously been submitted by plant commodity groups are available at www.green.msu.edu.

Horticulture Fund dollars should complement, not replace, ongoing programs or assist in exploring new ventures. To allow evaluation and assessment of productivity, projects must deliver clearly defined results within a realistic time frame. All proposals must clearly state how the proposed activities will enhance Michigan ornamental horticulture. All proposals will be reviewed by a Horticulture Fund Advisory Committee appointed by the Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Funding for the Applied Research and Outreach/Training/Demonstration categories may be requested for up to three years, with second and third year funding being contingent on satisfactory progress and available Horticulture Fund assets. Multiyear proposals must clearly justify the proposed time span and provide a progressive linkage among the activities in subsequent years based upon the accomplishments of the previous year. Funding for the Basic Research category may be requested for one year only. Greater priority will be given to proposals in the areas of Applied Research than in Basic Research. **Proposals for Fiscal Year 2008 funding will be due by 5:00 p.m., on Friday February 1, 2008 at the address provided in the cover letter.** Awards will be announced in late March 2008 with funds becoming available in April 2008.

All faculty and staff members of universities and colleges in Michigan are eligible to receive funding, as well as teams of university/college investigators and private individuals. University or college personnel must be the Principal Investigator of the proposal.

PROJECT TYPE

Fiscal Year 2008 New Proposals: New projects being proposed to begin in the spring of 2008 will be considered. Proposals must adhere to the specified format and be consistent with the objectives of the Horticulture Fund.

PROGRAM AREAS

Applied Research

Proposals must focus on priorities identified by plant commodities and other commodity partners (priorities can be found at www.green.msu.edu). Crop management systems that enhance industry profitability while being environmentally and socially responsible, and provide long-term benefits to Michigan's nursery and ornamental horticulture industry are appropriate for this program area. Proposals that address priorities of more than one commodity will be favored. Proposals must contain a plan to disseminate information to industry.

Projects may address issues through single discipline or multiple discipline approaches. Multidisciplinary projects involving multiple investigators must demonstrate effective integration.

Basic Research

All basic research proposals submitted must have a duration of one year only. Multiple year proposals will not be considered. A portion of the Horticulture Fund awards will be used to support basic research to generate knowledge that can be used to address contemporary problems and/or enable the future development and implementation of improved techniques or processes. Linkage to plant commodity priorities is important. Proposals that position investigators to be competitive for national/international grants will be favored. Proposals should include a vision and plans for the improvement of the performance of Michigan nursery and horticultural plants and how the results will be disseminated to the plant industry. Greater priority will be given to Applied Research than to Basic Research.

Outreach/Training/Demonstration

Proposals for outreach, training and demonstration activities focused on assisting Michigan's nursery and ornamental horticultural industries, will be considered in this program area. Proposals must address plant commodity priorities. Programs may have a regional or statewide orientation. Projects that utilize a team of state, university and field-based personnel are encouraged.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Proposals must be printed single-spaced with indented paragraphs, double-spaced between sections and in 12-point type with 1-inch margins. **The review committee will not consider proposals that do not comply with this format.**

New Projects

Sections II through VI should contain no more than **four pages** (excluding cover and budget pages) for all proposals.

- I. COVER PAGE: see attached form; completed and signed by Principal Investigator and lead unit administrator.
- II. PROBLEM STATEMENT: what is being proposed and why it is important to Michigan nursery and ornamental horticultural industries.

- III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND HYPOTHESES: (hypotheses not required for outreach, training and demonstration proposals).
- IV. SPECIFIC METHODS AND PROCEDURES
- V. IMPACTS OF PROPOSAL: project must demonstrate documentable impacts on Michigan's nursery and ornamental horticulture industry. Proposal must outline how impact data will be collected.
- VI. TIME LINE: multiyear projects (no longer than three years) must include plans for all years.
- VII. BUDGET: see attached new project budget forms; multiyear projects must include budgets for all proposed years. List both existing matching support and support from pending proposals.
- VIII. FUNDING HISTORY:
- IX. LITERATURE CITED
- X. TEAM QUALIFICATIONS: one-page maximum vitae for each team member outlining his/her qualifications and related accomplishments.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Submit the signed original and 10 copies, **by 5:00 p.m. Friday, February 1, 2008**, to the address below. Proposals submitted from Michigan State University must also provide one copy of a completed transmittal.

MDA Horticulture Fund Proposals
 c/o Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station
 Michigan State University
 109 Agriculture Hall
 East Lansing, MI 48824-1039

Please contact the individuals below, if you have questions or need more information on:

1. RFP - Michael Bryan at bryanm@michigan.gov or (517) 241-2977
2. Submitting proposals – Candace Ebbinghouse at candy@msu.edu 355-0123 ext. 112

TIME LINES

- November 15, 2007 Request for proposal released
- February 1, 2008 Proposals due
- Week of March 1, 2008 Notification of awards
- April 1, 2008 Project initiation date
- June 30, 2009 Termination date

REPORTING

Two reports are required for each year that a project is funded, including multiyear projects. A progress report will be due at approximately 6 months and a final report will be required at 12 months. Specific dates will be noted in the grant agreement.

Payment of funds will be contingent upon receiving these reports. The first fund payment will be approximately 30-40 % of the total grant and will be made midway through the grant period. The balance of the grant will be made after receiving a final report.

These reports will be placed on the Horticulture Fund Web site and may be used in reports to the legislature, to industry, and to the general public. Failure to submit timely and quality progress reports, or to make acceptable project progress, may result in premature termination of a project and confiscation of unspent funds. Multiyear projects are funded one year at a time and are subject to annual evaluation for continued funding. Using examples and data, the report should document how the project has impacted the economic and environmental climate of Michigan’s nursery and ornamental horticulture industry.

PROPOSAL REVIEW

A Horticulture Fund Advisory Committee will be appointed by the Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture to review and rank proposals within a program area. The Committee will review these rankings and make recommendations to the Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture. The Director will ultimately decide which proposals to fund and the appropriate funding level.

The following criteria will be used to judge the merit of the proposals:

| Evaluation Criteria | Maximum Points | | |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | <i>Applied</i> | <i>Basic</i> | <i>Outreach</i> |
| Relationship to Horticulture Fund mission and Michigan nursery and ornamental horticulture priorities | 25 | 15 | 35 |
| Scientific soundness & appropriateness of methodology | 25 | 50 | 15 |
| Leverage of funds | 10 | 5 | 10 |
| Extent of partnering with nursery and horticultural industries. | 10 | 15 | 5 |
| Mechanism to deliver information to Michigan industry | 15 | 5 | 20 |
| Multidisciplinary and integrated nature | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Potential impact on Michigan nursery and ornamental horticulture industries; appropriateness of impact assessment plan | 10 | 5 | 10 |
| TOTAL | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Project Budget Form
New MDA Horticulture Fund Fiscal Year 2008 Projects

| |
|--|
| Project Title: |
| Project Principal Investigator: |

Horticulture Fund Funds Requested

| Budget Item | FY-08 | FY-09 | FY-10 | Non-Horticulture Fund dollars* |
|--|-------|-------|-------|--------------------------------|
| A. Personnel Wages | | | | |
| A1. Research associates & post-docs | | | | |
| A2. Other professionals | | | | |
| A3. Secretarial & clerical | | | | |
| A4. Technical, shop & other | | | | |
| B. Fringe Benefits (Must be charged as direct costs.) See below** | | | | |
| A5. Undergraduate students – no fringes if enrolled for minimal credits | | | | |
| A6. Graduate students – including associated fringes | | | | |
| C. Total Personnel Costs (A+B=C) | | | | |
| D. Nonexpendable equipment (Attach explanation if any item exceeds \$5,000.) | | | | |
| E. Materials & Supplies | | | | |
| F. Travel | | | | |
| G. Publication | | | | |
| H. Other Direct Costs (Attach explanation, list of items and individual costs.) | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | |

* Identify both sources and amounts of non-Horticulture Fund dollars.

** Fringe rate for MAES and MSUE personnel; **use fringe rates from MSU Contracts and Grants website.**