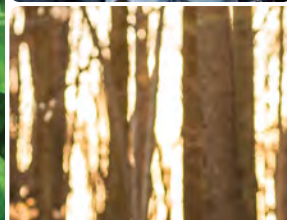
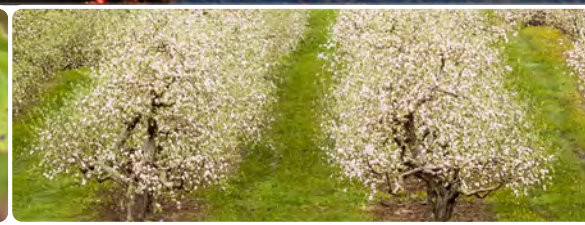




Get Growing!

Michigan's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program



Do You Have a Great Idea?

We Can Help You Gain Traction!

Does your organization need a boost to help solve an industry-wide issue? Maybe you want to improve promotion of your specialty crop nationally or even internationally? You can apply for funding to help reach your goals!

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program supports projects that enhance the competitiveness of Michigan specialty crops. Grants are awarded to organizations that show potential impact and measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public. Recipients have up to two years to use the funds.

Who's Eligible?

- Non-profit organizations
- For-profit organizations
- Local, state, and federal government entities, including tribal governments

**If you are applying for funding on behalf of a university, the proposal must be submitted by the commodity group or other eligible organization for which the work is being performed. The budget should reflect that the work being done by the university is contractual with the commodity group.*

How Do I Apply?

Each year the process begins in January. The application process has several steps and is time sensitive, so applicants are encouraged to apply and begin writing proposals as early as possible. The application can be downloaded at michigan.gov/mdardgrants.

** Please read the application process carefully for specific criteria, clarifications and revisions, compliance rules, and expenses that are not allowed to be included in the grant.*

How Long Does It Take?

It can take as long as one year from the time a complete and qualified proposal is submitted to the time a funding determination is made. Check online or email mda-grants@michigan.gov for exact dates.

JAN	Submission process opens.
FEB	Submissions are due by end of month.
APR	MDARD Specialty Crop Block Grant Committee submission review begins.
MAY-JUL	USDA reviews final submissions.
SEP	USDA selects approved proposals and starts process agreement.
OCT-NOV	Grants awarded to recipients, work may begin.

IN 2019

10 RECIPIENTS
USED GRANTS
FOR **PROMOTION,**
EDUCATION, OR
INNOVATION



What Does a Project Look Like?

Criteria for Success

Proposals for grant funds should show how the project aims to benefit and produce measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public rather than a single organization, institution, or individual. Grant funds will not be awarded for projects that solely provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual.

** Single organizations, institutions, and individuals are encouraged to participate as project partners.*

Acceptable Project Examples

- An industry organization requests funding to contract with a university to conduct research on the feasibility of planting, cultivating, and growing a specialty crop in a particular area, the results of which will be shared with many growers throughout the state.
- A single grower requests funds to demonstrate the viability of organic small fruit production and partners with Cooperative Extension to publicize the working model of diversification to other regional growers.
- A single non-profit organization requests funds to conduct an advertising campaign that will benefit its specialty crop members.

Unacceptable Project Examples

- A company requests grant funds to purchase starter plants or equipment used to plant, cultivate, and grow a specialty crop to make a profit, or to expand production of a single business or organization.
- A sole proprietor requests grant funds to redesign her/his logo to make her/his specialty crop value-added product stand out at the local farmers' market.
- A single specialty crop organization requests grant funds to market its organization so it can increase membership in the organization.



IN 2019

13 RECIPIENTS
USED GRANTS
FOR PEST
CONTROL FOR
CROP HEALTH
RESEARCH



Funding Priorities

For help determining if your idea fits into a funding priority area, please contact the Grant and Commodity Program Manager with details about your project.

Market Enhancement and Promotion

- Market expansion, availability, and access to specialty crops
- Farm to institution

Research and Development

- Plant health and pest management
- Farm sustainability
- Research, innovation, and product development

Training and Education

- Enhancing food safety
- Environmental sustainability
- Workforce/labor

Block Grant Success Stories



Michigan Apple Committee

"The Specialty Crop Block Grant gives the Michigan Apple Committee the resources they need to help support growers like us. Through the committee's social media and public relations efforts, Michigan consumers learn more about Michigan apples, which helps us compete with out-of-state and imported apples."

—Elizabeth Wittenbach, 5th Generation Apple Farmer



Michigan Bean Commission

"Over the last two field seasons that I have been working on the dry bean crop research, we've seen positive outcomes from the work we've been able to conduct with support from the Specialty Crop Block Grant. With our research, we've been able to make adjustments to fertilizers and nutrients for the dry bean crop, which has allowed growers to adjust their practices, leading to better results for them, both economically and environmentally."

—Scott Bales, Dry Bean Extension Specialist, MSU, and Acting Research Director for the Michigan Bean Commission



Michigan Cherry Committee

"Our research is focused on the spotted wing drosophila, a fruit fly that is devastating to the cherry industry, especially tart cherries which Michigan is the number one producer for in the nation. The Specialty Crop Block Grants have allowed us to boost our research in that area, finding alternative strategies to combat this pest."

—Julianna Wilson, Tree Fruit Integrator, MSU





It's Time to Get Growing!

For more information about the MDARD Specialty Crop Block Grant Program contact:

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michigan.gov/mdardgrants



Michigan.gov/mdard

(800) 292-3939





Get Growing!

Michigan's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

This list is current as of January 2021.

Check online at michigan.gov/mdardgrants for the most recent list of eligible commodities.

Eligible Commodities

Fruits and Tree Nuts

- Almond
- Apple
- Apricot
- Aronia Berry
- Avocado
- Banana
- Blackberry
- Blueberry
- Breadfruit
- Cacao
- Cashew
- Citrus
- Cherimoya
- Cherry
- Chesnut (for nuts)
- Coconut
- Coffee
- Cranberry
- Currant
- Date
- Fejoa
- Fig
- Filbert (hazelnut)
- Gooseberry
- Grape (including raisin)
- Guava
- Kiwi
- Litchi
- Macadamia
- Mango
- Nectarine
- Olive
- Papaya
- Passion Fruit
- Peach
- Pear
- Pecan
- Persimmon
- Pineapple
- Pistachio
- Plum (including prune)
- Pomegranate
- Quince
- Raspberry
- Strawberry
- Suriname cherry
- Walnut

Vegetables

- Artichoke
- Asparagus
- Bean, Snap or Green; Lima; Dry, Edible
- Beet, table
- Broccoli (including broccoli raab)
- Brussels sprouts
- Cabbage (including Chinese)
- Carrot
- Cauliflower
- Celery
- Celery
- Chickpeas
- Chive
- Collards (including kale)
- Cucumber
- Edamame
- Eggplant
- Endive
- Garlic
- Horseradish
- Kohlrabi
- Leek
- Lentils
- Lettuce
- Melon (all types)
- Mushroom (cultivated)
- Mustard and other greens
- Okra
- Pea, Garden, English or edible pod; Dry, edible
- Onion
- Opuntia
- Parsley
- Parsnip
- Pepper
- Potato
- Pumpkin
- Radish (all types)
- Rhubarb
- Rutabaga
- Salsify
- Spinach
- Squash (summer and winter)
- Sweet corn
- Sweet potato
- Swiss chard
- Taro

- Tomato (including tomatillo)
- Turnip
- Watermelon

Culinary Herbs and Spices

- Ajwain
- Allspice
- Angelica
- Anise
- Annatto
- Artemisia (all types)
- Asafetida
- Basil (all types)
- Bay (cultivated)
- Bladder wrack
- Bolivian coriander
- Borage
- Calendula
- Chamomile
- Candle nut
- Caper
- Caraway
- Cardamom
- Cassia
- Catnip
- Chervil
- Chicory
- Cicely
- Cilantro
- Cinnamon
- Clary
- Cloves
- Comfrey
- Common rue
- Coriander
- Cress
- Cumin
- Curry
- Dill
- Fennel
- Fenugreek
- Filé (gumbo, cultivated)
- Fingerroot
- French sorrel
- Galangal
- Ginger
- Hops
- Horehound
- Hyssop
- Lavender
- Lemon balm
- Lemon thyme
- Lovage
- Mace
- Mahlab
- Malabathrum
- Marjoram
- Mint (all types)
- Nutmeg
- Oregano
- Orris root
- Paprika
- Parsley
- Pepper
- Rocket (arugula)
- Rosemary
- Rue
- Saffron

- Sage (all types)
- Savory (all types)
- Tarragon
- Thyme
- Turmeric
- Vanilla
- Wasabi
- Water cress

Medicinal Herbs

- Artemisia
- Arum
- Astragalus
- Boldo
- Cananga
- Comfrey
- Coneflower
- Fenugreek
- Feverfew
- Foxglove
- Ginkgo biloba
- Ginseng
- Goat's rue
- Goldenseal
- Gypsywort
- Horehound
- Horsetail
- Lavender
- Licorice
- Marshmallow
- Mullein
- Passion flower
- Patchouli
- Pennyroyal
- Pokeweed

- St. John's wort
- Senna
- Skullcap
- Sonchus
- Sorrel
- Stevia
- Tansy
- Urtica
- Witch hazel
- Wood betony
- Wormwood
- Yarrow
- Yerba Buena

Horticulture

- Honey
- Hops
- Turfgrass
- Tea Leaves
- Maple Syrup

Annual Bedding Plants

- Begonia
- Dahlia
- Impatiens
- Pansy
- Snapdragon

- Coleus
- Geranium
- Marigold
- Petunia
- Vegetable Transplants

Potted Flowering Plants

- African Violet
- Azalea
- Florist Chrysanthemum
- Flowing Bulbs
- Hydrangea
- Lily
- Orchid
- Poinsettia
- Rose

Potted Herbaceous Perennials

- Astilbe
- Columbine
- Coreopsis
- Daylily
- Delphinium
- Dianthus
- Garden Chrysanthemum

- Heuchera
- Hosta
- Ivy
- Ornamental Grasses
- Peony
- Phlox
- Rudbeckia
- Salvia
- Vinca

Cut Flowers

- Carnation
- Delphinium
- Iris
- Orchid
- Tulip
- Chrysanthemum
- Gladiolus
- Lily
- Snapdragon
- Rose

Cut Cultivated Greens

- Asparagus Fern
- Coniferous Evergreens
- Eucalyptus
- Holly

- Leatherleaf Fern
- Pittosporum

Foliage Plants

- Anthurium
- Cacti
- Dracaena
- Ficus
- Palm
- Spathiphyllum
- Bromeliad
- Dieffenbachia
- Fern
- Ivy
- Philodendron

Christmas Trees

- Balsam Fir
- Blue Spuce
- Douglas Fir
- Fraser Fir
- Living Christmas Tree
- Noble Fir
- Scots Pine
- White Pine

Deciduous Flowering Trees

- Crabapple
- Crepe Myrtle
- Flowering Cherry
- Hawthorn
- Redbud
- Dogwood
- Flowering Pear
- Flowering Plum
- Magnolia
- Service Berry

Broadleaf Evergreens

- Azalea
- Cotoneaster
- Holly
- Rhododendron
- Boxwood
- Euonymus
- Pieris
- Viburnum

Deciduous Shade Trees

- Ash
- Honey Locust
- Maple

- Poplar
- Sycamore
- Elm
- Linden
- Oak
- Sweetgum

Landscape Conifers

- Arborvitae
- Chamaecyparis
- Fir
- Hemlock
- Juniper
- Pine
- Spruce
- Yew

Deciduous Shrubs

- Barberry
- Hibiscus
- Rose
- Viburnum
- Bubbleia
- Hydrangea
- Spirea
- Weigela

Ineligible Commodities

- Alfalfa
- Amylomaize
- Barley (including malting barley)
- Buckwheat
- Camelina
- Canola
- Canola Oil
- Clover
- Cotton
- Cottonseed oil
- Dairy products
- Dent corn
- Eggs
- Field corn
- Fish (marine or freshwater)
- Flax
- Flaxseed
- Flint corn
- Flower corn
- Hay
- Hemp
- Livestock products
- Millet
- Mustard seed oil
- Oats
- Peanut oil
- Peanuts
- Pod corn
- Primrose
- Quinoa
- Rapeseed oil
- Range grasses
- Rice
- Rye
- Safflower meal
- Safflower oil
- Shellfish (marine or freshwater)
- Sorghum
- Soybean oil
- Soybeans
- Striped Maize
- Sugar beets
- Sugarcane
- Sunflower oil
- Tobacco
- Tofu
- Triticale
- Waxy corn
- Wheat
- White corn
- Wild rice



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