

# Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Specialty Crop Block Grant Program-Farm Bill

(Last update 3/04/13)

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW:**

This is the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) program outline for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program-Farm Bill (SCBGP-FB) through the United States Department of Agriculture/Ag Marketing Service (USDA/AMS); the funding is from the federal allocations.

Specialty crops are defined as “fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.” Attached are a listing of plants commonly considered as fruits and tree nuts; vegetables; culinary herbs and spices; medicinal herbs; and nursery, floriculture, and horticulture crops.

## **PURPOSE OF GRANTS:**

Examples of “enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops” includes, but is not limited to: research, promotion, marketing, nutrition, trade enhancement, food safety, food security, plant health programs, education, increased knowledge and consumption, increased innovation, improved efficiency and reduced costs of distribution systems, environmental concerns and conservation, product development, good agricultural practices, good handling practices, and good manufacturing practices.

## **GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- SCBGP-FB funds shall be used for projects that **solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops** and benefit the specialty crop industry as a whole.
- Grant funds **will not** be awarded for projects that directly benefit a particular commercial product or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual, as these projects do not enhance specialty crop industry competitiveness.
- MDARD will solicit proposals for projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. The Joint Evaluation Committee will review proposals and recommend proposals for award to the MDARD Director. With the Director’s approval, MDARD staff will prepare and submit those projects in the Michigan State Plan to USDA/AMS in accordance with State Plan requirements.
- Applications for grant funds should demonstrate how the project potentially impacts and produces measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry rather than a single organization, institution, or individual.
- Indirect costs are not allowable under this grant program.
- Multi-state organizations proposals are permitted.

- Eligible applicants must be non-profit organizations, local, state, and federal government entities, for-profit organizations, and universities.
- Organizations must be legal entities recognized by the IRS.
- Applicants must reside, and/or conduct their business or organization in Michigan and must be in good standing.

#### **GRANT PROPOSAL CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES:**

- Grant proposal(s) - Please complete the provided application. The application format **must** be followed.
- Grant period will be October 1, 2013, through March 31, 2015.
  - This is a cost reimbursement program.
  - Only proposals submitted in whole dollar amounts will be considered.
  - Failure to comply with MDARD and USDA AMS reporting requirements may result in forfeiture of current and future grant funding.
  - If you are a University applying for funding (research), your application must be submitted by the commodity group for which the research is being performed.
  - Only two applications per entity are eligible for consideration.
  - Applications must be limited to ten (10) pages - 8½" x 11", with not less than 12-point Arial font and 1-inch margins. Letters of Support do not count toward the page count.
  - Recommendation of proposals to be awarded will be determined as soon as possible and applicants will be notified.

#### Examples of Acceptable Projects

- A State 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 can be shared with many growers throughout the State.
- A State requests grant funds to help improve and expand domestic farmers markets, which benefits a wide array of specialty crop producers.

#### Examples of Unacceptable Projects

- A company requests grant funds to purchase starter plants or equipment used to plant, cultivate, and grow a specialty crop for the purpose of making a profit, or to expand production of a single business.
- A State requests grant funds to make grants to individual specialty crop businesses or roadside stands to promote their individual business.

#### **SUBMISSION CRITERIA:**

- **Proposals must be received by 3pm EST Friday, April 12, 2013 and will not be accepted if received after that deadline. Applications must be sent in a WORD document electronically to MDA-Grants@michigan.gov.**

- Applications must be limited to ten (10) pages - 8½” x 11”, with not less than 12-point Arial font and 1-inch margins. Letters of Support do not count toward the page count.
- Recommendation of proposals to be awarded will be determined as soon as possible, and applicants will be notified.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- If your project is recommended for funding, the contact person must be available for questions and comments from USDA AMS until the State Plan is accepted. Failure to comply with these requests may result in the withdrawal of your project for funding consideration.
- Projects cannot begin work and/or expend any funds until a signed grant agreement is in place.
- The Director of Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development will have final authority to approve or not approve grant awards, based upon selection criteria, program priorities and application instructions.

**REFERENCE LIST**

Please refer to the website for further information and forms: USDA/AMS Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill (SCBGP-FB) – Website: [www.ams.usda.gov/scbgbp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/scbgbp).  
[Agricultural Marketing Service - Specialty Crop Block Grant Program](#)  
 MDARD Contact – Nancy Nyquist, 517-241-4381, [nyquistn@michigan.gov](mailto:nyquistn@michigan.gov).

**ELIGIBLE COMMODITIES:**

This list is not intended to be all inclusive, but rather intended to give examples of the most common specialty crops. It will be updated by USDA.

**List of Plants Commonly Considered  
Fruits and Tree Nuts**

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

## List of Plants Commonly Considered Vegetables

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

## List of Plants Commonly Considered Culinary Herbs and Spices

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

## List of Plants Commonly Considered Medicinal Herbs

Artemissia	Ginseng	Marshmallow	Sonchus
Arum	Goat's rue	Mullein	Sorrel
Astragalus	Goldenseal	Passion flower	Stevia
Boldo	Gypsywort	Patchouli	Tansy
Cananga	Horehound	Pennyroyal	Urtica
Comfrey	Horsetail	Pokeweed	Witch hazel
Coneflower	Lavender	St. John's wort	Wood betony
Fenugreek	Yerba buena	Senna	Wormwood
Feverfew	Liquorice	Skullcap	Yarrow
Foxglove			
Ginko biloba			

## List of Commonly Considered Nursery, Floriculture, and Horticulture Crops

**Note:** Under the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP), turfgrass sod is not eligible. Under the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill (SCBGP-FB), horticulture was added to the definition making turfgrass sod eligible.

Christmas Trees
Cut Flowers
Honey
Hops
Maple Syrup
Tea Leaves

03/04/13