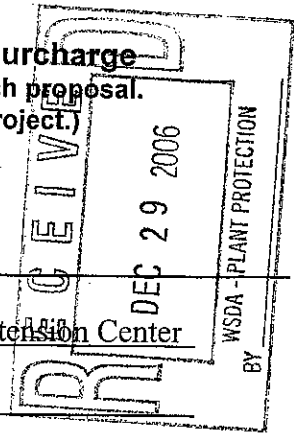


08-004

FY08 Application for Nursery Research Funding
Washington State Department of Agriculture - Nursery License Surcharge
 (Please use one application packet including the Progress Report page for each proposal.
 You must use our form - failure to do so may result in not funding your project.)



Project Title: Evaluation of Alternative Fruit Crops for the Puget Sound Region

Project Leader: Gary A. Moulton, Senior Scientific Assistant

Institution (if any): Washington State University - Northwest Washington Research & Extension Center

Mailing Address: 16650 State Rt. 536, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Project Phone Number: (360) 848-6131 FAX Number: (360) 848-6159 Cellular/Pager Number: ()

Note: Project leader or his/her designee must be available at above project phone number on March 2, 2007 between the hours of 10:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:00.

Amount Requested for (FY08) July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008: \$ 15,507

Start Date: July 1, 2007 Completion Date: June 30, 2012

(Check One) New Project Continuing

If this is a multiple year project, please estimate and list the following information for each future July 1 - June 30 period listed below through project completion:

Fiscal Years (FY)	July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009	July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010	July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011	July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012	July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013
\$ Amount Needed	\$ 15,729	\$ 16,358	\$ 17,012	\$ 17,692	

If you are increasing the above amounts since your last application, please explain why:

*Please list all other sources and amounts of funding for this project for the current year only: (Please notify us by February 15 if other funding has been approved and from where.)

Source	\$ Amount Applied For	Approved	Pending Date of Notification
Western WA Fruit Research Foundation	\$ 14,493		March 2007
NW Ag. Res. Found.	\$ 15,507	\$ 15,507	
WA Wine Advisory Board (wine + cider)	\$ 30,000 (\$14,000 granted 2006)		April 2007
American Vineyard Foundation (wine)	\$ 5,000		April 2007

Total Amount Needed to Fund Project (Include all sources) \$ 75,000

If total amount from all sources is not granted, will you be able to complete the project? no

Explain:

If the trial receives only partial funding, then certain elements will have to be eliminated.

Submit 15 copies of this proposal to: Tom Wessels, Plant Services Program Manager, P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560. All applications must be postmarked by December 31, 2006.

Please summarize the purpose of this research: (you may attach additional sheets if necessary or submit this summary in your own format)

Short-term objectives are to conduct research trial of potential alternative fruit crops, in order to select those which are adapted to a cool maritime climate and that have good potential for high value-added products. Along with that is the reporting of trial results both to area growers and to the nurseries that are then able to propagate and sell proven plant varieties. Research is needed to define the fruit kinds and varieties with best potential, followed by cooperation with nurseries in making plants available to growers.

Long-term objectives are to promote establishment of local agricultural enterprises that combine high quality crops with value-added products and innovative market techniques. This helps growers to select crops with good profit potential that are suited to their specific area conditions. Supplying these growers with plants is a potential market for the nursery industry. [Continued on attached sheet]

Methods of research:

Trials consist of selected tree, vine and bush fruit potentially adapted to area climate conditions. All fruit trials include replicated plots. Wine grape plots are located at two different sites, one at NWREC-Mount Vernon with lower heat units and one near Everson in Whatcom Co., a location with higher heat units.

Data collected in all fruit trials includes bloom time and density, fruit quality and productivity. Observations are taken on the effect of rootstocks on early ripening, plant vigor, disease resistance and other characteristics affecting ease of culture. In the cider apple and wine grape trials, data includes measurement of juice characteristics (brix, pH, titratable acid).

Expenditure Breakdown:

(Please include salaries, supplies, travel, etc.)

	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>
00 Salaries		
Tech. Farm Laborer (0.18 FTE)	3,356	3,490
01 Time-Slip		
Service Work (\$12.50/hr)	4,732	4,732
Other (\$8.00/hr)	1,298	1,298
03 Operations	1,997	1,997
04 Travel ¹		
Plot travel	1,000	1,000
Meetings	250	250
07 Benefits		
Tech. Farm Labor (@65%)	2,181	2,269
Time-slip (@ 11.5%)	693	693
TOTAL	15,507	15,729

¹Travel budget would include regular trips to maintain the off station plot and to gather data, observation of other vineyards, consultation with industry sources, and reporting results at horticulture meetings. Meeting attendance benefits the project by promoting information transfer to growers and researchers.

The information requested on this page will have a direct bearing on whether your research request is approved or denied. Letters of support by the industry are also encouraged.

Note: Funding is not available for general overhead cost.

Attachment: Purpose of Research

[Continued]

In 2000 an area survey by WSU CAHNRS (formerly CAHE) reported that in western Washington “research/development of high-value alternative crops” ranked alongside “water quality/stream buffer issues” as the two highest priorities in retaining agriculture as a viable option in the region. By exploring potential alternative fruit crops, our research program offers a wider range of options for area growers to maintain profitable operations, particularly through value-added crops with good niche market opportunities, such as wine grapes and hard (fermented) cider.

At this time the topics of greatest interest in our area are wine grapes, both production and value added sales, apples for hard cider, and fruit crops that enjoy a particular regional advantage, such as russeted pears (e.g. Taylor’s Gold Comice) that have a more attractive, uniform color grown in the maritime climate of western Washington. There are some unusual vine and bush fruit that also have proven to be well adapted locally, with very good potential for organic culture, such as hardy kiwi (*Actinidia arguta*). Potential also exists for U-Pick and fresh market sales of plums and peaches, if growers are made aware of the best adapted varieties.

Our research program also responds to the increasing public interest in locally grown, natural fruit and fruit products, and develops local opportunities for fresh-market/farmgate sales. Grass-roots support for our program has come from diverse interests, including core interest groups in our region: wine grape and orchard growers, wine and cider makers and nursery propagators.

Recent publications covering this research area include

EB 0937 “*Fruit Handbook for Western Washington: Varieties and Culture*” (Moulton & King, October 2006) <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb0937/eb0937.pdf>

EB 2002 “*New Alternative Fruit Crops for Western Washington*” (Moulton & King, March 2006) <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb2002/eb2002.pdf>

EB 2001 “*Growing Wine Grapes in Maritime Western Washington*” (Moulton & King, November 2005) <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb2001/eb2001.pdf>