

## SPECIALTY CROP GRANT AWARDS 2013

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**In 2013, the Washington State Department of Agriculture awarded \$2,904,947 million to 23 projects:**

**The Washington State Wine Commission** in coordination with Visit Seattle to increase sales of Washington wineries by conducting a reverse trade mission with wine buyers and travel journalists from China and Canada, enabling attendees to establish sales relationships with Washington wineries and build Washington State's reputation as a premier destination for wine tourism.

**Grant Award: \$45,984**

**Pear Bureau Northwest** and the Oregon Department of Agriculture to increase pear sales in Southern China markets by conducting the "USA Pear Road Show" where supermarket shoppers in China, as well as children, will increase their awareness about USA Pear attributes including varieties, availability, ripening, nutrition, and usage.

**Grant Award: \$100,000**

**The Washington Blueberry Commission** to increase blueberry exports by conducting a professional assessment on the market for blueberries in South Korea, China and Vietnam in order to determine where to invest its own resources in market development and promotion.

**Grant Award: \$95,144**

**The Northwest Cider Association** to help increase awareness and distribution of northwest cider and ensure there is a supply of cider apples to meet the growing demand through a domestic marketing program and production research with a goal of commercial implementation of mechanical harvesting.

**Grant Award: \$100,000**

**Viva Farms** to provide an incubator program for new specialty crop producers, host workshops, and work with Washington State University Small Farms Program to carry out a program assessment measuring the community, social, and economic impact of the incubator to be shared with development programs throughout Washington. Matching funds and in-kind instructor time will be provided to support non-specialty crop producers who may be served during open courses.

**Grant Award: \$115,226**

**Washington State University** to increase knowledge and awareness about biological control, natural enemies and ways to enhance biological control in tree fruits by developing an online educational course that will train growers, orchard managers, and crop consultants on the use and value of biological control components of integrated pest management in tree fruit orchards. The project focuses on beginning farms and is committed to at least 50 percent Latino specialty crop grower participation.

**Grant Award: \$155,743**

**Washington State University** to increase the number of farmers in Snohomish County using compost on specialty crops by enabling growers to participate in compost research trials to demonstrate enhanced soil quality, nutrient retention and increased water infiltration rates.

**Grant Award: \$200,000**

**Washington State University** to allow specialty crop growers to make better decisions by providing them access to the AgWeatherNet portal integrating current and past weather conditions with high resolution spatial hourly weather predictions up to 24 to 72 hours out.

**Grant Award: \$198,066**

**Whatcom Farm Friends** to reduce current water supply uncertainties and secure access to irrigation water for years to come by integrating specialty crop grower's water use and needs into the Whatcom County Water Use Plan and create an Agriculture Water District to implement water strategies that address grower needs. Matching funds will be used to cover the portion of the project that benefits non-specialty crops.

**Grant Award: \$75,000**

**Northwest Food Processors Association** to increase knowledge and ability of specialty crop processors to create sustainability deployment plans for their plants and achieve efficiencies that preserve key resources by providing specialty crop processors at no cost with online resources and face to face training.

**Grant Award: \$100,000**

**Washington State Fruit Commission** in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service to develop a shelf-stable, standardized cherry powder in order to conduct research to support the health impact of all natural sweet cherries.

**Grant Award: \$40,000**

**Whatcom Farm Friends** to increase sales of blueberries in Asian markets by conducting field research to generate residue decline curves that will allow the blueberry industry to develop more effective pesticide use patterns using currently registered products to control spotted wing drosophila.

**Grant Award: \$100,000**

**The Washington Red Raspberry Commission** to reduce the cost of red-raspberry production while minimizing crop losses for growers by developing a systematic approach for cane management through horticultural modifications for physically separating one-year and two-year old canes. These systems will be evaluated for their feasibility to allow mechanized pruning of two-year old canes while maintaining the desired level of yield. In addition, techniques will be developed to bundle one-year old canes together and tie them to the trellis wires.

**Grant Award: \$169,926**

**Washington State University** to expand acreage, yields, and quality of white wine grapes by determining the effectiveness of three decision-aid tools that will use measurements of weather conditions (atmosphere- or ET-based), soil moisture (soil-based), or plant water status (plant-based) to calculate weekly vineyard water requirements. The best tool, or a combination of tools, will then be put to use to determine optimized irrigation strategies for white wine grape production. Finally, recommendations will be transferred to the industry in the format of website content, workshops, field days, conference presentations, and appropriate publications.

**Grant Award: \$181,818**

**Washington State University** to increase production of dry beans by conducting field trials on dry bean varieties that are early maturing and disease resistant in multiple locations so that recommendations can be made to growers on variety choice and planting date and performing laboratory tests on cooking time and nutritional value to aid in marketing strategies.

**Grant Award: \$222,998**

**Washington State University** to improve the production potential for English/garden and edible pod peas by investigating changes in the genetic identity of the powdery mildew fungus in order to develop online breeding tools along with extension bulletins and online resources for powdery mildew management.

**Grant Award: \$109,870**

**Washington State University** to increase vine health, fruit yield and berry quality by documenting the extent of the distribution of Grapevine redleaf or redblotch disease in Washington vineyards using high throughput diagnostic assays and studying impacts of the disease on red and white grape cultivars in order to empower grape growers, nurseries and regulatory agencies with new knowledge and strategies to contain an emerging virus disease in Washington vineyards.

**Grant Award: \$149,203**

**Washington State University** to address the potential fruit damage and lost revenue of sweet cherry growers by providing them with the necessary integrated pest management information to control the spotted wing drosophila.

**Grant Award: \$237,908**

**Washington State University** to provide cherry growers new and novel means of sustainably managing the powdery mildew disease of cherries by extending the management season to keep the disease at low levels on foliage, and in doing so, reduce or eliminate the survival phase of the life cycle of the causal organism.

**Grant Award: \$236,442**

**Washington State University** to increase crop value for Washington State Christmas tree growers by developing best management practice recommendations to control the adelgid pest on Nordmann and Turkish firs.

**Grant Award: \$117,243**

**The Washington Asparagus Commission** to help growers reduce disease outbreaks and maintain more of their crops value by evaluating asparagus varieties with higher and lower disease susceptibility.

**Grant Award: \$40,000**

**The Organic Seed Alliance** and the Oregon Department of Agriculture to increase the production of four key crops by evaluating and promoting the agronomic and culinary qualities of overwintering chicories, sprouting broccoli, winter cabbage, and storage onions, developing markets for these crops by convening tasting/networking events and providing promotional marketing materials and, facilitating access to seed of appropriate varieties.

**Grant Award: \$64,246**

**Kwiaht: Center for the Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea** to build a market for local camas by researching productive cultivation of camas as a sustainable dry farmed food crop in the San Juan Islands and Western Washington; providing outreach to potential growers including Tribal garden and food programs about trialing camas; and conducting outreach to consumers.

**Grant Award: \$50,130**