

Michigan Cherry Committee

The Michigan Cherry Committee (MCC) is requesting research proposals for FY2024-25. The request for proposals is being coordinated by MSU AgBioResearch. Research priorities for the MCC can be found below. However, proposals on any important topic will be accepted.

Proposal should be no greater than three (3) pages in length, and they need to be submitted by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 7th, 2025**. If you were granted funds last year and wish to continue the project, you must reapply for FY'24/25 funding.

- **Researchers should submit their proposals electronically through MSU's KC system.**
- **A NEW proposal development document is required for each proposal being submitted, including continuing projects.**
- **Important information for FY24-25: There is a line item on the budget sheet for plot fees. Please provide an estimate for reimbursement from the Michigan Tree Fruit Commission. This number is required if applicable and should not be included in the requested budget.**

Funding decisions will be communicated in early March. If you have any questions, please contact **Sara Haller** at bolessar@msu.edu.

Download the complete MCC request for proposals, including cover sheet, budget form and research priorities in the EBS system.

Research priorities are set by the commodity groups; however, proposals on any important topic will be accepted.

Project GREEN Industry Priorities for 2024/25 Michigan Cherry Committee

1. Current and Future Plant Protection Issues:
 - **IPM strategies for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD)**
 - **Disease protection (alternatives for increasingly difficult disease resistance to SDHI, SI, and QoI fungicides, including cherry leaf spot, brown rot, and mildew).**
 - **Arthropod protection (Plum curculio, cherry fruit fly, mites, OBLR, San Jose Scale, Trunk borers, and nematodes) via chemical and IPM efforts, basic biology, and genetics.**
 - Climate Change resiliency (drought, winter hardiness, and bloom time)
 - Addressing soft fruit via orchard nutrient management, rootstocks, plant growth regulators, and photosynthesis.
 - MRL issues that impact the export markets

- Breeding program (particularly leaf spot and armillaria resistance)
- Orchard replant issues, including nematodes and soil health
- Abandoned orchards

2. Current and Future Marketing Priorities

- **New products and expanded uses of cherries-both sweet and tart cherries**
- **Cherry pits and ways to reduce them in finished product**
- **Production trends worldwide by variety for tart cherries**
- Varieties and production practices to discover or improve marketable traits, i.e., firmer texture, nutraceutical content, larger size, fresh market, sugar/acid balance, color, etc. (ex., high-density plantings)
- Production development (IPM/Sustainability)
- Market research
- Research and development of pet food products containing cherries

3. Other Current Production Issues

- **Computerized weather station network upgrading**
- **Wildlife management issues in tree fruit**
- **Fruit sweet, growth regulators**
- Bacterial canker
- Irrigation efficiency
- Frost protection/delayed bloom
- De-fruiting young trees