

Michigan Cherry Committee

The Michigan Cherry Committee (MCC) is requesting research proposals for FY2023-24. 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 9th, 2024**. If you were granted funds last year and wish to continue the project, you must reapply for FY'23/24 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 FY23-24: 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 **Jackie Garcia** at jdesande@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 2023/24 Michigan Cherry Committee

1. Current and Future Plant Protection Issues:

- **IPM Strategies for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD).**
- Disease management (alternatives for diseases resistant to SI's and SDHI's fungicides including leaf spot, brown rot, mildew), and bacterial canker.
- Insect protection (Plum Curculio, Cherry Fruit Fly, Mites, OBLR, San Jose scale, Trunk Borers, European Cherry Fruit Fly, and Spotted Lantern Fly) via chemical and IPM efforts, basic biology & genetics.
- MRL issues that impact the export markets.
- Breeding program (leaf spot, Armillaria, etc.).
- Climate change resiliency (drought, hardiness, bloom time/delayed bloom, frost protection).
- Ground cover and weed management.
- Orchard replant issues.
- Abandoned Orchards.

2. Current and Future Marketing Priorities:

- New and expanded uses of cherries – both sweet and tart cherries.
- Import labeling (USDA organic label).
- Pits and ways to reduce them in finished product.
- Production trends world-wide **by variety for tart cherries**.
- Varieties and/or production practices to discover or improve marketable traits, i.e., firmer texture, nutraceutical content, larger size, fresh market, sugar/acid balance, color etc. (high density plantings).
- Production development (IPM / Sustainability).
- Market research.

3. Other Current Production Issues:

- Computerized weather station network upgrading.
- Wildlife management issues in tree fruit.
- Fruit set, growth regulators.
- Orchard nutrient management, rootstock, photosynthesis with regard to soft fruit.
- Irrigation efficiency.
- De-fruiting young trees.