

Texas Pecan Growers Association (TPGA) And Texas Pecan Board (TPB)
Texas Pecan Research and Extension Grant Program
2026 Request for Proposals (RFP)

RFP No.: 1

Release Date: April 10, 2026

Proposal Due Date: May 29, 2026 5:00 P.M. CST

1. Introduction

The Texas Pecan Growers Association (TPGA) and Texas Pecan Board (TPB) invites qualified researchers, extension personnel, institutions, and organizations to submit proposals for projects aimed at advancing the Texas pecan industry. This RFP seeks innovative and applied research, extension projects, or improvements addressing challenges and opportunities relevant to Texas pecan production, quality, pest management, sustainability, economics, and market competitiveness within Texas.

2. About the Organizations

Texas Pecan Growers Association: *To assist Texas pecan growers in growing pecans profitably through education, research, promotion, and advocacy.*

Texas pecan membership based organization. www.tpga.org

Texas Pecan Board: *To develop, promote, and protect the Texas pecan industry.*

Texas pecan state check-off program. www.texaspecanboard.com

The TPGA and TPB organizations work together to address the needs of Texas pecan producers and are jointly offering this grant opportunity to benefit Texas growers. Though governed by different boards of directors, missions, and rules, both organizations employ the same staff to accomplish their goals.

Texas is one of the leading producers of pecans in the United States, supporting both improved and native varieties. Continued research is essential to address emerging pests, climate pressures, market shifts, and production challenges. This grant program supports research or extension projects that will directly benefit Texas pecan growers and industry.

3. Funding Availability

- **Total Funding Available:** \$25,000
 - **Funding Award per Project:** \$1,000 - \$25,000
 - Funding available to multiple grant awardees at any amount
 - Total research funding available for all proposals: \$25,000
 - **Project Duration:** 12 - 24 months
 - **Allowable Costs:**
 - Supplies, materials, infrastructure
 - Field trials and experimental plots
 - Travel necessary to the project
 - Data analysis and equipment
 - No more than 5% overhead costs shall be taken by any organization
 - **Non-Allowable Costs:**
 - Salaries and wages
 - International travel (unless pre-approved)
 - **Reimbursement:** Funding will be allocated in the amounts outlined by the schedule agreed upon in the contract and coinciding with the fulfillment of performance reports, deliverables, invoicing, and receipts from the awardee.
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4. Research Priorities

Proposals should address one or more of the following priority areas:

1. **Pest and Disease Management**
 - Pecan pests such as aphid, stink bug, weevil, etc.
 - Pecan disease such as scab, pecan leaf dieback, etc.
 - Integrated pest management strategies or projects
 2. **Water Use & Drought Tolerance**
 - Water or Irrigation efficiency
 - Variety or rootstock performance under Texas conditions
 3. **Soil Health & Fertility**
 - Nutrient optimization
 - Cover crops and regenerative practices
 4. **Variety Development & Evaluation**
 - Improved varieties suited to Texas climates
 - Trials demonstrating performance across regions
 5. **Economics & Market Research**
 - Cost-benefit analyses
 - Consumer demand and value-added product research
 6. **Environmental & Sustainability Studies**
 - Climate resilience
 - Carbon sequestration and ecosystem services
 7. **Other**
 - Open to other proposed topics if not covered in previously listed
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5. Eligibility

Eligible applicants include:

- Universities and research institutions
 - Government or extension agencies
 - Nonprofits engaged in agricultural research
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6. Proposal Requirements

All proposals must include the following sections:

A. Cover Page

- Project Title
- Lead Researcher(s)
- Organization / Institution
- Address / Phone / Email
- Note if a continuation of current project or new project
- Total Funds Requested
- Project Period

B. Executive Summary (1 page)

Brief overview of the project, objectives, and expected impact.

C. Project Narrative (max 5 pages)

1. Introduction and problem statement
2. Relevance to Texas pecan industry
3. Research objectives and hypotheses
4. Methods and experimental design
5. Timeline and milestones
6. Expected outcomes and deliverables
7. Industry partnerships, if applicable

D. Budget & Budget Justification

Include a budget table. Example:

Category	Amount Requested	Justification
Research/Extension	\$X,XXX	Field trials, plots
Supplies, Materials	\$X,XXX	Field sampling, lab consumables
Travel	\$X,XXX	Field site visits in Texas
Equipment (<\$5,000)	\$X,XXX	Data loggers, traps
Other	\$X,XXX	Outreach costs
Overhead Costs	\$X,XXX	No more than 5%
Total	\$XX,XXX	

E. Biographical Information

Include relevant experience and publications.

F. Facilities & Equipment

Describe resources available for conducting the research.

G. Letters of Support

Provide two letters of support from Texas pecan industry members.

7. Submission Instructions

- Submit proposals electronically as a single PDF file to:
Blair@tpga.org and Nichole@tpga.org
 - Subject line: “Texas Pecan Research & Extension Grant RFP – [Lead PI Name]”
 - Deadline: **May 29, 2026 5:00 P.M. CST**
 - Late submissions will not be reviewed.
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8. Review Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by a Texas pecan industry committee based on the scientific rigor and feasibility of the project, qualifications and expertise of the research team, potential impact and significance of the proposed research, budget justification and cost-effectiveness, and compliance with ethical guidelines and regulatory requirements.

9. Award Notification

Award decisions will be announced by **August 1, 2026**. Contracts must be executed before project initiation.

10. Reporting Requirements

Awardees must submit:

- **Quarterly performance reports**
- **Final project report**
- **Industry outreach plans** (e.g., presentations, field day participation, fact sheets)

Data, findings, and deliverables must be shared with the Texas pecan industry and first presented at TPGA events and first published in Pecan South magazine, before any other options. The Texas Pecan Growers Association and Texas Pecan Board are to be properly credited with project funding when presenting or sharing project details and information.

11. Contact Information

For questions or clarifications, contact:

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Phone: (979) 846-3285

Name: Nichole Hejl

Email: Nichole@tpga.org

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