

Please read application in its entirety

Application for Production & Post-Harvest Research Funding

Introduction:

Thank you for your interest in submitting a research application to identify and solve floral industry challenges. The American Floral Endowment (AFE) is committed to supporting research that advances the floral industry. Your work and expertise are extremely important to us and the future of floriculture. All proposals are reviewed by the AFE Research Committee for industry relevance, by the Society of American Florists Growers Council, and by academic and industry peer reviewers.

Each proposal will be evaluated for the potential benefit to the industry. We encourage each researcher to review the AFE research priorities listed below. Our priorities are focused on all floricultural crops, including fresh-cut flowers and greens, flowering and foliage potted plants, bedding plants, and perennials. Projects benefitting any industry segment from grower to consumer will be considered for funding. In no specific order, the priorities are:

- Botrytis Control and Management
- Thrips Control and Management
- Biocontrol of Pests
- Postharvest Technology
- Production Technology
- Advanced Breeding Technology, including CRISPR
- Long-Term Storage and Shipping Conditions for Cut Flowers
- Automation and Technology Leading to Labor Savings
- Sustainable Production and Handling Practices
- Reduce the impact of Climate Change on Production, Handling, and Product Quality

If you have any questions about the application, research proposal process, AFE's priority areas, or a project idea, please contact AFE Research Coordinator Dr. Terril Nell (tnell@afeendowment.org), or AFE Executive Director Debi Chedester (dchedester@afeendowment.org)

American Floral Endowment
610 Madison Street, Suite 101, PMB 803, Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone – 703-838-5211

Application Timeline and Guidelines

Research Application

- The application must be completed in its entirety using the provided form, including a description (up to 3 pages) and a letter of endorsement acknowledging compliance with university policies.
- A realistic timetable, budget, and scientific approach must be provided. Inclusion of preliminary data is desired.
- Literature review must be brief but include relevant research conducted either domestically or internationally.
- Applications do not require an intellectual property agreement. However, all researchers must be aware of and conform to their organizational property rights agreements.
- Applications not conforming to these guidelines will not be reviewed.
- AFE policies do not allow for payment of overhead or indirect costs.

Application and Review Timeline:

- Application materials must be submitted electronically in a single PDF file by August 1 to afe@endowment.org. All applicants will be acknowledged immediately. The review and status of the peer review will be communicated by November 1.
- Projects selected for final funding will be notified in January of the following year. Funding begins on July 1 and will be provided in two payments, one in July/August and one the following January.
- **If funded, researchers agree to:**
 - Present a final research report at the conclusion of the project (within 60 days of the completion of the project).
 - Provide acknowledgment of funding by the American Floral Endowment in all publications and presentations.
 - Submit an annual project progress report annually (for multi-year projects).
 - Publish not only in professional journals and other scientific publications but also in industry publications, including AFE newsletters and trade magazines.
 - Present findings via webinar to the industry.

Multiple-Year and Team Projects

To accomplish the research goals of the project, the Endowment funds one to three-year projects. In addition, projects with either a single researcher or multiple researchers at the same or different institutions are considered. When two or more researchers are included, a “team leader” must be designated to coordinate the implementation and reporting of the project. Grants will be paid to each team member and/or institution separately as requested.

For multi-year projects, an annual progress report and request for continued funding will need to be submitted by June 1 of years 2 and 3.

Industry Relevant Research

Research funded by the American Floral Endowment should be relevant to current and future industry needs, and results should provide information that has commercial applications directly to the industry – growers, wholesalers, retailers, and transportation. Publication of trade magazine articles, AFE newsletter articles, and scientific publications will be requested as part of funded projects. Researchers may be asked to participate in webinars and to provide presentations for the flower industry.

Prior to submitting the proposal, AFE requests that the application contains the name and contact information of two industry representatives who support the proposed research.

Production & Post-Harvest Research Application

Application must be submitted by **August 1**. Submit electronically (PDF) to AFE at afe@endowment.org

Name & Information of Team Leader Submitting Application:

Name _____ Date: _____

University: _____ Department: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Research Project Title: Must be concise and descriptive.

Running (three word) Title:

Industry Need: Simple, concise, and impactful –

Identification of Research Goals: Precise identification of the project’s specific objectives.

<u>Proposed Project Duration</u>	Start (Mo/Yr)	Completion (Mo/Yr)	Total Years
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Designated Research Category (Check only one):

Breeding and Genetics	Flower Storage and Shipping	Production Technology/Protocols
Disease Management	Nutrition/Water Management	Automation/Labor Saving Technology
Insect Management	Post-Production	Other

Budget Request: (No university overhead or indirect costs will be funded and must not be included). List multiple-year requests here. ****Multi-year projects must contain budgets for all years.***

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
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A three-page description must be submitted using a 12-point font. It must include:

- Precise identification of the current and/or potential problem (project objectives).
- Proposed industry impact of the research to the industry. Inclusion of preliminary data is highly encouraged.
- Development of realistic approaches/methods and timetable to solve the problem.
- Resources and facilities available to carry out the project.
- Citations of pertinent literature

PROPOSED BUDGET

Title:			
Year of Application:			
Team Leader:	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Salaries and Wages			
Graduate Student(s)			
Technical Support Staff			
Post Doctoral			
Equipment *			
Materials and Supplies **			
Travel			
Publication Costs			
Other: (Explain)			
TOTAL REQUESTED PER YEAR			
* Describe any equipment over \$5,000 ** Provide a list of materials and supplies			

Please provide contact information and the complete address of where payment should be mailed should your project be approved.

Researchers: For projects involving multiple researchers, a “team leader” must be identified to coordinate the implementation and reporting for the project.

Team Leader & Academic Rank

Institution

Other Researchers:

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET INFORMATION

PROJECT SCHEDULING & DURATION

Indicate 12-month period for requested funding (must begin after July) (M/Y) through (M/Y)

Certify date when funds are needed for this 12-month period (M/Y)

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

- 1. Reoccurring research funds from Agricultural Experimental Station _____
- 2. Funds from USDA Research Initiative _____
- 3. Other Outside Research Funds _____

Sources:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____

TOTAL _____

Industry Representatives Contacted

Name	Company	Position	Email
1.			
2.			

Please include the below information as the final page(s) of the PDF document.

- 1) Researcher resumes (Limit to 1 page per researcher).
- 2) List of all project personnel (Provide the information listed below for each researcher that is being funded. Limit to one page per researcher).
 - a. Project Leader
 - b. Technician(s)
 - c. Graduate Student(s)
 - d. Post-Doctoral(s)
 - e. Visiting Scientist(s)
 - f. Other Personnel
- 3) List of relevant publications by researchers for the past two years