

Request for Pre-Proposals
Texas Pierce's Disease Research and Education Program
Funding Cycle: April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012

The Texas Pierce's Disease (PD) Research and Education Program, administered through Texas AgriLife Research, is funded by a cooperative agreement with the Plant Protection & Quarantine Division of the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA. Projects are evaluated annually and funding is contingent upon continued congressional appropriations to USDA-APHIS/PPQ for support of this and related programs. This funding cycle is for the fourth year of the current 5-year Program Plan for the Cooperative Agreement with APHIS.

Criteria for the Evaluation of Pre-Proposals and Subsequent Request for Full Proposals:

Pre-proposals are requested from faculty within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences-Texas A&M University, Texas AgriLife Research, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and scientists at other universities, agencies and institutions with appropriate research or extension expertise. Eligible pre-proposals would be for those to extend and amplify on-going PD research and education/extension projects or for new project ideas that would address the problem of Pierce's disease in order to reduce its impact on the nation's grape and wine industries. Principal Investigators (PIs) may submit more than one pre-proposal and collaborations with scientists from the same or other institutions are encouraged.

The pre-proposal is limited to **two pages** in the format provided, excluding attachments. The pre-proposal should succinctly cover:

1. justification for conducting the work addressing a component of the PD problem;
2. project objectives and research methodology planned;
3. Metrics/milestones planned for measuring annual progress toward objectives; and,
4. if a continuation project, provide progress-to-date from recent work.

Preference will be given to projects that address one or more of the priority areas as defined in the current 5-year cooperative agreement plan. Priority areas for investigation include (listed by relative importance):

1. Host plant resistance (traditional breeding, transgenics, rootstocks, non-conventional exotic varieties, species evaluation, etc.).
2. Novel conventional (cultural, chemical, vegetation management/manipulation, etc.), bio-control (biological, molecular manipulation, etc.) and other pathogen and vector management strategies.
3. Pathogen biology, detection, genetic diversity, pathogenicity, host preferences, transmission, expression, epidemiology, distribution and abundance, host-pathogen interactions, cultural and biological management/control strategies.
4. Multi-faceted outreach approaches (publications, newsletters, web-based communications, etc.) for timely delivery of information related to pathogen and vector activity and management/control strategies.
5. Local and statewide monitoring of pathogen and vector occurrence, densities and distribution.
6. Vector species diversity, biology, distribution and abundance, host preferences, feeding behavior, pathogen transmission, cultural/chemical and biological management/control strategies.

Pre-proposal evaluation criteria include:

1. justification for proposed project and research/education objectives;
2. projects which complement and not duplicate PD research in California and other states;
3. progress-to-date on current projects if PI already has received funds from this program;
4. planned research approaches (experimental design); and,
5. experience and adequacy of the personnel and facilities, respectively, to insure the successful completion of the project objectives.

Deadline for Submission:

Pre-proposals are due no later than close of business, **Monday, October 18, 2010**. Please submit an electronic copy of each pre-proposal to Roland Smith, Program Coordinator (rdsmith@tamu.edu), with a copy to Ms. Cecilia Wagner (Cecilia@tamu.edu).

Review Process:

Pre-proposals will be evaluated independently by the Texas Pierce's Disease Research and Education Program Administrative and Unit Head Team; representatives of USDA-APHIS/PPQ plus the Texas Department of Agriculture; and the Texas Pierce's Disease Grower Advisory Board. Decisions on who will be asked to submit full proposals will be made jointly by representatives from the Texas Pierce's Disease Grower Advisory Board, USDA-APHIS/PPQ, and Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Service Administration.

It is anticipated that invitations to submit full proposals will be announced by November 16th with a *tentative* due date for full proposals of December 13th.

For questions, please contact Roland Smith, Program Coordinator, via email or by phone, 979.255.2672.

Project Pre-Proposal Format
Texas Pierce's Disease Research and Education Program
For Funding Cycle: April 1, 2011-March 31, 2012
(Limit to 2 pages, excluding attachments)

Project Title:

Principal Investigator (include institution affiliation and contact information):

Co-Principal Investigator(s) (names, organizations):

Collaborator(s) (names, organizations):

Amount of Federal Funds Requested: \$_____ (including 10% IDC)

New Project? _____ **Continuation Project?** _____ (yes or no)

Priority Research Area(s) Addressed: (see priority area list given above on page 1 of RFP):

Justification for Conducting This Project:

(Make this your 'brief elevator pitch' as to the importance of doing this work, and how the outcomes could positively impact the wine and grape industry in Texas and the Nation.)

Overview of Objectives and Methodology Planned:

For proposed continuation funding, describe in some detail the current project progress-to-date and benefits to growers—realized and anticipated:

Other funding that would be available to leverage the proposed project: (Please differentiate between outside funding sources and internal salary matching funds.)

Attachments to provide Qualifications of the Team (up to 2-page CV each for PI and Co-PIs)

Final Check List:

- Pre-Proposal format is to be 1 inch margins; 12-point Times Roman font.
- 2-page limit, excluding CV attachments
- Deadline for receipt of proposals is close of business on October 18, 2010
- Electronic copy to Roland Smith (rdsmith@tamu.edu), Texas AgriLife Research; with a copy provided to Ms. Cecilia Wagner (cecilia@tamu.edu)
- Questions? Please contact Roland Smith by email or phone: 979.255.2672