

# 2024 CULTIVAR DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH PROGRAM GUIDELINES

January to December 2024

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**Innovation Gateway**  
*Office of Research*  
**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

**Application Deadline: Wednesday, October 4, 2023**

## I. INTRODUCTION

The University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc. (UGARF) solicits proposals from faculty in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences for financial support of research projects designed to promote the development of new plant cultivars. This program is supported with funds derived from revenues generated from the commercialization of plant cultivars developed at the University of Georgia.

The rationale for this program is that faculty involved in breeding new plant cultivars have fewer sources of research support than other faculty in the more basic sciences. This program is an acknowledgment that exemplary work in the development of new cultivars will increase if there is support to advance the cultivar development program. Furthermore, advancement of the program should serve as a catalyst to increase support from both private and public sources.

Peer review of the proposals will be organized by the UGARF. Proposals must clearly and unambiguously communicate the significance of the project in relation to cultivar development. Questions about the program should be directed to Shelley Fincher, the University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc., at 706-542-0969.

## II. PROGRAM GUIDELINES

### Eligibility for Grants

Eligibility for Cultivar Development Research Grants in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is limited to full and part-time tenure track faculty, to USDA adjunct positions, and to permanent research scientists. Visiting faculty are not eligible, nor are postdoctoral research associates.

**Only one project per “crop” being developed may be submitted by any eligible individual. Where multiple proposals relate to one crop and involve a single breeder, the different projects should be coordinated within the overall cultivar development program with requirements that are realistic without duplication of personnel or other requests, and be submitted as a single, multi-project proposal by the breeder.**

### Amount of Grants

Although no upper limit has been established for these grants, limited overall funding dictates that proposals with large budgets, i.e. above \$80,000, must have unusually strong justification to receive high priority. Proposals may be for more than one year, although annual awards will be dependent on the availability of funds. For clarity, funding received in one year does not guarantee funding the next year for the same expense.

**Note: Large residual Cultivar Development Research Program account balances carried over to the next funding cycle will be considered by the review committee when making funding decisions for the current year’s proposals. If excess funding remains in the account, then the review committee may choose to restrict additional funding until the residual account balance is spent.**

## Uses of Grant Funds

The funds are to be used ONLY for the support of cultivar development. Budgets may include support for:

1. Labor costs essential to the project, specifying the following categories and distinguishing between salary and benefits for each (Note that matching funds will increase the priority for funding):
  - **Research Technicians**
  - **Research Professionals**
  - **Graduate Research Assistants** as support staff for the project. While grants are not intended to support unrelated thesis or dissertation research, graduate assistants are encouraged to participate in cultivar development activities. Proposals requesting graduate student stipends should make clear the role played by a student in the project.
  - **Student Workers / Part-Time Labor**
2. Equipment essential to the project.
3. General expenses such as supplies, materials, services, and travel to research plots which are essential to the project.

They are not to provide travel funds to attend professional meetings. Support for such items is to be provided by the department, or in special cases, through the Office of Research.

**NEW:** If the proposal request is more than \$80,000 in a single year, a list of preferred funding for items up to \$80,000 is required in the proposal. For example, if the total request in a proposal is \$150,000, then the application must clearly identify the specific components within the total budget that are the highest priority up to \$80,000.

The funds cannot be used to replace funding which should be provided by the College for cultivar development. The use of the requested funds must be put in the context of the overall ongoing cultivar program, both in terms of the specific project to be accomplished, such as additional crosses, selections or screenings introduced, and in relation to the total funding support of the program. If the objective is general overall enhancement of a breeding program, the relative increase in the number of crosses, selections, evaluations, or total material handled, etc., made possible by the additional funding should be indicated. This program is not intended to support the development of enabling technologies, which is the responsibility of the College, but rather to support the application of existing technologies to produce new cultivars.

### **Deadline**

Proposals, along with a signed cover sheet, should be emailed to [ryanann1@uga.edu](mailto:ryanann1@uga.edu) in CAES's Business Office prior to the due date of **Wednesday, October 4, 2023 (latest date complete proposals will be accepted by UGARF)**. Allow time for a review by CAES, then the proposals will be transferred to UGARF by the due date. Late proposals will not be considered for funding. Feel free to copy [shelleyf@uga.edu](mailto:shelleyf@uga.edu) at UGARF when emailing the proposals to CAES's Business Office if desired. Award decisions will be announced no later than January 2024.

### **III. PROPOSAL FORMAT**

Each proposal in this program will be reviewed by a committee of faculty members and administrators from the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station, the Georgia Seed Development Commission, and the University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc. These individuals serve their colleagues on a voluntary basis, and it is imperative that proposals be submitted in a format which does not make inordinate

demands on their time. For this reason, limitations on both length and style have been established and will be enforced.

Proposals must conform to the following format, in the order given:

1. **Cover Sheet:** The first page of each proposal must be the program cover sheet, completed according to its directions and signed by the proposer, department head, and dean or director. **(A separate web link)**
2. **Project:** Describe the nature of the proposed research in such terms that a non-specialist will understand. Indicate how this project relates to the overall cultivar development program. Your project will be evaluated in terms of its significance to your own cultivar development activities as well as those in your field. Include the status of the program at this time and what should be achieved during the funding period. Limit of three single-spaced pages.
3. **Budget:** A detailed list of items for which funding is requested should be given, separated into the following categories:
  - **Labor Costs** – distinguish between categories below, and salary and benefits, as applicable (Note that requests with matching funds from other sources will receive higher priority for funding)
    - **Research technicians**
    - **Research Professionals**
    - **Graduate Research Assistants** as support staff for the project. While grants are not intended to support unrelated thesis or dissertation research, graduate assistants are encouraged to participate in cultivar development activities. Proposals requesting graduate student stipends should make clear the role played by a student in the project.
    - **Student Workers / Part-Time Labor**
  - **Equipment** (items over \$5,000). Specific equipment must be identified and two bids obtained for a price estimate. Equipment requests with matching funds from other sources will receive higher priority for funding.
  - **General expenses** (supplies, services, travel, etc.)

The proposed total budget should be detailed, clearly justified, and relate to the real needs of the research. The appropriateness of the budget will be considered in evaluating the proposal. If the total budget is more than \$80,000, then specific requests must be identified as highest priority for funding within the total budget that add up to \$80,000 or less. Budgets may be adjusted by the review committee. If matching funds have been secured, provide the grant title, source of funding (Federal agency, commodity board/commission, etc.), and the amount of funding received. Limit of one page.
4. **Budget Justification:** Each item in the budget must be justified as an expenditure required by the project plan and not be available through normal College sources. If large sums are requested, this section must thoroughly justify the need. Indicate how this funding relates to total funding for the program. Limit of one page.
5. **Reports.** If funding was received from the Cultivar Development Research Program during the previous budget year, **a report must be included indicating what expenditures were made, how the funds were used and the benefit provided to the Cultivar Development Program over and above the College funded program.** Limit of two single-spaced pages.

**An electronic copy of the proposal, along with the fully signed cover sheet, should be submitted**

**to Ryan Fugett in the CAES Business Office before the due date, so that a review by CAES and transfer to UGARF will meet the due date.**

#### **IV. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS**

The goal of this program is to advance the development of cultivars. The major points to be considered in reviewing proposals are as follows:

1. General:
  - a. Does the proposal communicate the importance of the work?
  - b. Have proposal format guidelines been followed?
2. Significance:
  - a. Is the importance of the project within its area made clear?
  - b. Is the area within a cultivar development program or will it complement such a program?
  - c. Is the project significant to the continued development of the research program of the proposer?
  - d. Will successful completion result in improved cultivars which will have a positive impact upon agriculture/horticulture in Georgia?
3. Project Design:
  - a. Does the proposer have the necessary background and expertise?
  - b. Are project activities well planned, and do they realistically fall within an appropriate timetable?
4. Budget:
  - a. Have all items requested been justified?
  - b. Is the amount requested reasonable and consistent with the total funding available to this program?
  - c. If equipment is requested, has the possibility that it is already available elsewhere been explored?
  - d. If support for graduate students is requested, is it clear that their activities are essential to the project?
  - e. Have matching funds been leveraged?

#### **V. GENERAL CONDITIONS OF GRANTS**

1. Time Period: Grants will ordinarily be made for a twelve-month period from January to December. Proposals may be submitted for projects requiring a longer period, but the award of funds will require review, availability of funds, and approval of progress made during the first year of work.
2. Other: All research carried out under the sponsorship of a Cultivar Development Research Grant is subject to all of the University's standing policies regarding research.