

*For requirements regarding eligibility visit:*

[www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp)

*Applications are typically made available in the spring and can be found at:*

<http://www.agri.state.nv.us/>

*We look forward to hearing from you!*



**Katie Jameson**  
SCBGP Grants Coordinator  
Phone: (775) 353-3639  
Fax: (775) 353-3638  
[kjameson@agri.state.nv.us](mailto:kjameson@agri.state.nv.us)

The Nevada Department of  
Agriculture Promoting the  
Competitiveness of  
Specialty Crops.

## Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

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Agriculture Promoting the  
Competitiveness of Specialty Crops!*



(Photo courtesy of Mike Sevon)

Nevada Department of Agriculture  
405 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sparks, NV 89431  
(775) 353-3600  
[www.agri.nv.gov.us](http://www.agri.nv.gov.us)



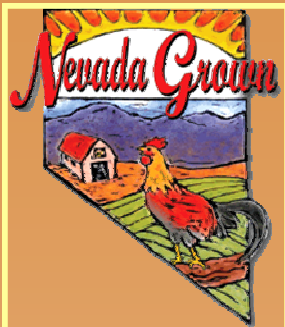
*Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is Funded by  
the United States Department of Agriculture.*

# Enhancing Specialty Crops in Nevada!

On December 21, 2004 the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was authorized by the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 to provide state assistance regarding specialty crops through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP). The USDA provides funding to State Departments of Agriculture in order to enhance the competition of specialty crops through each state.

In 2006 the Nevada Department of Agriculture announced a notice of released funds in order to inform interested/eligible parties of the specialty crop grant opportunity.

The State of Nevada then sub-grants to individuals or organizations implementing specialty crop enhancing projects.



<http://nevadagrown.com>

Eligible projects include but are not limited to work in research, promotion, marketing, nutrition, farm-to-school programs, trade enhancement, food safety, food security, plant health programs, education, improved efficiency, and environmental concerns and conservation.

It is important to note that this grant program is awarding funds to projects that benefit more than one product or organization involved in specialty crops. Projects that solely benefit a particular commercial product or provide profit to a single institution, individual, or organization are ineligible.

Eligible Specialty Crops are fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture).

Various small farmers, organizations, and schools have received grant funding in order to improve overall knowledge regarding the growth of specialty crops and their efficiency in Nevada's climate.

Through sub awards this grant has provided advertising/promotion opportunities to inform the public of local specialty crop producers, educational opportunities for students, and healthy eating throughout local school programs. This program, has also provided a funding source for the promotion and growth of specialty crops throughout Nevada.

NevadaGrown, a SCBGP sub-grant recipient has been a resource for marketing tools and promotion for Nevada Growers. NevadaGrown assists Nevada producers and their customers by promoting local consumption of Nevada products. The primary goal of the program is to brand the Nevada-Grown name with regional consumers. Branding and marketing specialty crops has been essential to Nevada Farmers, restaurants, community supported agriculture, and farmers markets.



Western Nevada College Specialty Crop Institute, a SCBGP sub-grant recipient has utilized Specialty Crop funding to implement various workshops regarding specialty crop production, product marketing, promotion, and food safety. Production workshops have included viticulture, berry production, lavender production, hoop house production, organic production, and value-added processing. For upcoming workshops please visit :

<http://www/wnc.edu/sci>



(Photo courtesy of Mike Sevon)



Building a hoop house at a WNC, SCI workshop.

## SCBGP Projects

Throughout this grant program numerous water efficient crops have been tested including wine grapes, lavender fields, and berry crops. A great deal of research has been performed regarding alternative growing methods including hoop house production, compost additives, irrigation methods, and seedling production.

The construction of hoop houses has proven successful in testing the viability of different specialty crops in Nevada's climate. Hoop house production provides season extension growth which allows produce to be made available earlier and later than the normal growing season. Various hoop house growing methods have been researched and implemented throughout the program.

School garden programs have been established in elementary, middle, and high school classes. These garden programs educate students regarding the science of crop growth, nutrition, marketing techniques, and hands on production. Students are educated regarding the tools and resources needed in order to implement a successful production.

Specialty crop value-added processing projects have experimented with various product types, processing methods, food health/safety, and consumer demand. These projects reduce crop waste due to spoiling, offer alternative income to producers, and expand variability of products available to consumers.

For further details of projects funded by the SCBGP visit: [www.ams.usda.gov/scbgbp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/scbgbp)