

# Nevada's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Plant Health and Compliance



Nevada  
Department  
of Agriculture

## What is the Specialty Crop Block Grant?

Under the 2008 Farm Bill, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) receives grant funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to enhance the competitiveness of Nevada's Specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops). To seek out program-enhancing projects, the NDA conducts an annual competitive application process to award grant funds to eligible and top scoring candidates.

## How does the Specialty Crop Block Grant work?

**Who:** Those interested in receiving grant funds to contribute to Nevada's success in the Specialty Crop Industry.

**What:** The NDA Specialty Crop Program awards grant funds for specialty crop enhancing projects.

**When:** A competitive Request for Proposal is released early January, and applications are due early spring.

**Why:** We are looking for projects to promote and enhance specialty crops through research, marketing, education, and production.

## Who is eligible for the grant?

Individual agricultural producers, non-profit organizations, tribal organizations, minority groups, disadvantaged farmers, agricultural associations, industry groups, community-based organizations and academic institutions are all encouraged to apply.

## What are Specialty Crops?

The Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act of 2004 and the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 have defined specialty crops as:

- Fruits and vegetables
- Tree nuts
- Dried fruits
- Horticulture
- Nursery crops (including floriculture)

Eligible plants must be intensively cultivated and used by people for food, medicinal purposes, and/or aesthetic gratification to be considered specialty crops. Processed products shall constitute greater than 50% of the specialty crop by weight, exclusive of added water.

## Past Awarded Projects

- Eastern Nevada Food Bank, 4H and FFA hydroponic laboratory program
- NevadaGrown consumer awareness and sales of Nevada specialty crops
- Hops research project with Urban Roots, UNR College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CABNR), University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) and High Desert Farming Initiative (HDFI)
- Western Nevada College workshop series on specialty crop production and marketing
- HDFI raspberry production research in a hoop house
- Great Basin Community Food Coop's (GBCFC) inventory and ordering system for Distribution of Regional Organic Produce and Products (DROPP)
- Carson City Greenhouse project to train Americorps members on how to produce, manage and market specialty crops with the goal of creating future farmers

## Information

► [www.agri.nv.gov/PLANT\\_SCBGP.htm](http://www.agri.nv.gov/PLANT_SCBGP.htm)

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