



Guidelines for IFTA Research Proposals

Dear Colleague,

You are invited to submit a research proposal to the International Fruit Tree Association (IFTA). *Please note: All funding from Research Committee recommendations now comes from the IFTA Research Foundation, which is also establishing a permanent endowment to fund research projects well into the future.*

Preference will be given to proposals with deciduous tree fruit species in the following areas: fruit variety, rootstock, intensive orchard management systems, new technologies and additional horticultural issues. Please see the attached guidelines. If you need this document in a Word version, email Shane at IFTA office and he can send you one.

Proposals may be submitted by email in a Microsoft Word or PDF document no later than **January 31, 2026**, to Shane Johnson, IFTA Executive Director, at shanej@agmgt. **Late proposals will not be accepted.**

Please note that individual project funding caps have been removed. Over the past few years the Research Foundation has allocated about \$40,000 for research projects. Trustees can review and modify that amount based upon proposals submitted and donations received.

If you have a project currently funded and wish to apply for continued funding, progress reports must be submitted with your proposal for 2026.

If you have questions, please contact Shane Johnson at +1 509 585 5460 or shanej@agmgt.com.

Best Regards,

IFTA Research Committee



Guidelines for IFTA Research Proposals

I. Research topics: preference will be given to proposals with deciduous tree fruit species in the following areas:

1. Fruit type
 - A. Cherries
 - B. Pome Fruits
 - C. Other Stone Fruits
2. Rootstocks
 - D. Rootstock development (traditional breeding; genetic engineering)
 - E. Rootstock and interstem performance (tree size, productivity, fruit quality, etc.)
 - F. Rootstock characteristics (disease resistance, winter hardiness, abnormalities, nutritional requirements, etc.)
 - G. Enhancement of rootstock survival and adaptation
 - H. Rootstock propagation (nursery management, micropropagation, etc.)
 - I. Rootstock identification
3. Intensive orchard management systems
 - J. Interaction of rootstocks with tree density
 - K. Support system
 - L. Pruning
 - M. Training
4. New Technologies
5. Additional horticultural issues (for example)
 - N. Tree size control (other than by rootstock)
 - O. Solving pest and disease problems of rootstocks and interstems

II. Value of research:

1. Importance of research to IFTA membership
2. Impact on commercial fruit growing (whole industry or a small section)
3. Practical nature of findings

III. Research proposal must:

1. Be adequately justified
2. Be scientifically sound
3. Have clearly stated objectives and procedures
4. Have a high likelihood of reaching objectives

IV. Factors used in ranking applications

1. Contribution to priorities
2. Scientific merit and reviewer comments
3. Level of interdisciplinary research and development of research team
4. Likelihood of success – including attracting additional funding to support project
5. Evidence of value to IFTA members and industry support
6. Contribution to IFTA's Compact Fruit Tree
7. Overall Research Program



Guidelines for IFTA Research Proposals

2026 Application for Research Funding

Please note: All funding from the Research Committee recommendations now comes from the IFTA Research Foundation, which has established a permanent endowment to fund research projects well into the future.

Please limit proposals to this title page, and a maximum of two pages addressing the questions identified on page two of this request for proposals. Please limit the proposals to two pages. Progress Reports for continuing projects are to be submitted separately. Proposals may be submitted by email in a Word or PDF document no later than **January 31, 2026**, to Shane Johnson, IFTA Executive Director, at shanej@agmgt.com. **Late proposals will not be accepted.**

Funding is distributed on a year-by-year basis, and checks will be distributed following approval. Project leaders may request a specific allocation of total funds among different researchers. Applications for continuing funding are welcomed but not guaranteed. **If additional funding is requested for subsequent years, a progress report must be submitted.** This progress report should be fairly comprehensive but brief (total length is at your discretion) and be sent in accordance with the requirements below.

Progress/Final Report Requirement

(This progress/final report should be fairly comprehensive but brief, total length is at your discretion)

The progress/final must be submitted in a Microsoft doc format with jpeg images and follow the following structure:

Title:

Authors:

Affiliations:

One Sentence Summary: Can be used as subtitle as well as for social media marketing

Abstract:

Main Text: (Issue, Response, and Impacts as main text sections)

References and Notes:

Acknowledgments:

List of Supplementary Materials:

Fig. #. (Begin each figure caption with a label, "Fig. 1.", for example, as a new paragraph.)

Table #. (Begin each table caption with a label "Table 1.", for example, as a new paragraph.)



Guidelines for IFTA Research Proposals

2026 Application for Research Funding

(Proposals are to be limited to two pages to address the following criteria.)

If additional funding is requested for subsequent years, a progress report must be submitted.

1. Priorities addressed by this project.
2. Research objectives.
3. Research design (experimental outline of treatments, design, etc.)
4. If additional funds are required, what are the anticipated/applied for sources and what is the industry support for this project.
5. Justification and value of research to IFTA membership.

Project Title:

Institution:

Mailing Address:

Project Leader:

☐ New Project ☐ Renewal Project (*Progress Report Required*)

Completion Year for Project:

Funds Requested:

Previous IFTA funding for this project:

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Amount					

Anticipated years and dollars per year of additional funding to complete this project:

Year	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Amount					

Other sources and amounts of funding for this project (i.e. how IFTA funds will be leveraged for the greater good of the project and the industry):

For Office Use Only:

Recommended by: IFTA Research Committee YES NO

Signature of Chairman: _____
