

16-006

FY16 Application for Nursery Research Funding  
Washington State Department of Agriculture - Nursery License Surcharge  
(Please use one application packet, including the Progress Report page for each proposal.  
You must use our form - failure to do so may result in not funding your project.)

Project Title: Consumer & Industry Education – Bee Health & Beneficial Bugs

Project Leader: Breanne Chavez & Project Committee Members

Institution (if any): Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association

Mailing Address: 34400 Pacific Hwy South, Ste 2, Federal Way WA 98003

Email: Breanne@wsnla.org Project Phone Number: (800) 672-7711 Cell Number: (253) 279-7061

Note: Project leader or his/her designee must be available at above project phone number on February 27, 2015 between the hours of 10:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:00.

(Check One) New Project  XX

Continuing  \_

Start Date: July 1, 2015

Completion Date: June 30, 2016

Amount Requested for (FY16) July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016: \$16,500

If this is a multiple year project, please estimate and list the following information for each future July 1 - June 30 period listed below through project completion:

Fiscal Years (FY)	July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017	July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018	July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019	July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020	July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
\$ Amount Needed	\$16,500				

If you are increasing the above amounts since your last application, please explain why:

\*Please list all other sources and amounts of funding for this project for the current year only:  
(Please notify us by February 15 if other funding has been approved and from where.)

Source	\$ Amount Applied For	Approved	Pending Date of Notification

Total Amount Needed to Fund Project (include all sources\*) \$ ~~16~~16,500. WSNLA staff and committee members will be providing in-kind time to support this project.

If total amount from all sources is not granted, will you be able to complete the project? NO  
Explain: Adequate funding unavailable via WSNLA general funds

Please indicate which sector(s) of the nursery industry stand to benefit from the results of your research: (Letters of support from the industry are encouraged.)

As of January 25, 2015 there are 4,637 retail licensees and 673 wholesale nursery licensees located widespread throughout the state – this grant would support their communications to customers. Landscape professionals would also benefit from training.

Submit 16 copies of this proposal to:

Tom Wessels, Plant Services Program Manager, P.O. Box 42560,  
Olympia, WA 98504-2560, [twessels@agr.wa.gov](mailto:twessels@agr.wa.gov), or fax (360) 902-2094  
All applications must be postmarked by December 31, 2014.

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**Please summarize the purpose of this project: (you may attach additional sheets if necessary or submit this summary in your own format) Include Report to Legislator, Letters of Support, Bee Health Presentation**

Bee health is a complex issue that dates back to the 1800s. Recently, the discussion has grown in exposure as main stream media, local jurisdictions, research professionals and corporate companies engage the topic of a declining bee population. Even though research points to multiple factors affecting pollinators, including pests and parasites, microbial diseases, pesticide use, nutrition problems, bee management practices, and climate change, the conversation has been sharply directed to the use of neonicotinoid insecticides, which has placed the nursery and landscape industry at the forefront of the conversation. Last year, several actions impacted our local nursery and landscape industry with regards to this topic. They include:

1. Four local jurisdictions banned the use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city property. They include Spokane, Seattle, Olympia and Lacey. Additional jurisdictions are expected to follow their lead. For your reference an example of the City of Seattle Resolution can be found below. The resolution states:
  - The City of Seattle will not purchase or use any neonicotinoid pesticides for any purpose and will seek to use only pollinator-friendly methods of weed and pest control on any City- owned or operated land.
  - The Mayor and the Seattle City Council supports a national moratorium on the sale and use of neonicotinoids.
  - The Mayor and Seattle City Council strongly urges the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to suspend the registration of imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, dinotafuran and any other neonicotinoids until the EPA can complete its environmental assessments.
  - The Mayor and the Seattle City Council strongly urges the White House Task Force on Pollinator Health to recommend or institute an immediate moratorium on all uses of neonicotinoids.
  - The Mayor and Seattle City Council strongly urges businesses operating within the City of Seattle to take immediate steps to ensure no plants, seeds, or products containing neonicotinoids are purchased, sold, or used within the City of Seattle.
2. Washington State Department of Agriculture released a brochure: <http://agr.wa.gov/fp/pubs/docs/388-TenWaysToProtectBeesFromPesticides.pdf>
3. Noxious Weed Board released published a brochure: [http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/publications/bee\\_brochure\\_web.pdf](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/publications/bee_brochure_web.pdf)
4. Ciscoe Morris spoke about the topic and directed inquires regarding locating a list of nurseries that provide non sprayed plants or 'bee safe plants' to Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association.
5. In December, a formal recommendation was made to the Washington State Legislature by the Honey Bee Work Group: <http://wasba.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/FINAL-Honey-Bee-Wk-Group-Report.pdf>

The industry is working to adapt. Some growers are reverting back to far worse alternative products, while some are implementing a more biological approach. Retailers are left exposed and without a clear message from the industry to share with their customers. Many professionals have inquired about credible sources and further information for their own knowledge. While the other publications produced last year serve valuable, they do not address industry needs.

There has been an increasing consumer awareness of the issue. Access to erroneous and/or inflammatory information is not helping the already contentious discussion surrounding this topic. Without a cohesive message from the industry, potential barriers to purchase plant material are developing. During the City of Seattle Council meeting one attendee specifically asked if the council could ban nurseries from selling plants that have been sprayed. Retail nurseries have

voiced their concern over consumer inquiries regarding bee safe plant material. Some even saying consumers have refused to buy anything if they cannot ensure the plant has not been sprayed. One wholesale nursery experienced their whole order being returned after the retail nursery identified beneficial bugs on it – even though they had specifically ordered plant material grown with a biological approach. Their comments exactly, “We cannot have these plants – they will not sell.” There are many more stories that can be shared along these lines.

The industry met on January 15 for an all day summit on Bee Health: Understanding the Issues and Alternatives. All sectors of the industry were present: retail, wholesale, landscape, public agencies, horticulture research and education professionals. From the discussion, several items were identified as a need. They include:

### **Proposed Plan:**

Creation of Project Committee to represent all factors of the industry. The committee will assist with direction and final approval of the following items:

## **Consumer Education Materials**

### **Beneficial Bugs Poster**

The poster would highlight beneficial bugs consumers might see on their plant material. Production of poster would include illustration on bugs, design & layout, printing and distribution. Poster will be distributed to retail nurseries and local WSU extensions, horticulture education programs, and posted online for ongoing access by industry professionals and consumers. Funds will cover contract services for design, printing and distribution. Printed Quantity: 3000.

### **Beneficial Bugs Rack Card**

Rack cards will be stocked at nursery locations and used as a resource when customers inquire about the issue. Information provided on the rack card could also be used in nursery eNewsletters and via social media to their customers. Rack cards will also be distributed at consumer trade and garden shows, to WSU extension, horticulture education programs, and posted online for ongoing access by industry professionals and consumers. Includes: Information about the issue, what is being done and how consumers can work to improve bee health and populations. Funds will cover contract services for design, printing and distribution. Quantity: 10,000.

## **Industry Education Materials**

### **Professional Training – Nursery Focus**

This includes bringing in speakers from out of state to present on the topic. Funds will cover speaker costs, travel costs, lunch, location and any necessary AV rental fees.

### **Professional training – Landscape Focus**

This includes using local experts to present on the topic. Funds will cover speaker costs, travel costs, lunch, location and any necessary AV rental fees.

### **Industry focused printed materials**

This will multi page publication will include relevant research, information on alternatives, insight directly from practitioners, and resources for further information. Quantity: 700 printed. Will be posted online as a resource for professionals, which will provide greater access and increase viewers. Funds will cover printing and distribution of materials.

Communication, collaboration, and effective stewardship are the best ways to improve bee health. Any effort to protect and encourage pollinator health should include responsible and accurate public education, and encourage planting more trees and flowers rather than discouraging or limiting their availability. With members on both sides of this issue, WSNLA looks forward to the opportunity to support and provide the industry with such tools they have requested to help address this relevant and timely topic with their customers.

Attached please find: letters of support from various nursery and landscape businesses; and letters of statement regarding the issue from Skagit Gardens.

**Expenditure Breakdown:  
(Please include salaries, supplies, travel, etc.)**

**Consumer Education Materials**

Beneficial Bugs Poster: \$5500  
Bee Health/Beneficial Bugs Rate Card: \$5100

**Industry Education Materials**

Professional Training – Nursery focus – \$2550  
Professional Training – Landscape focus – \$850  
Industry focused printed & online materials, includes postage – \$2500

Postage, travel, contract design services are included in the costs listed above.

**The information requested on this page will have a direct bearing on whether your research request is approved or denied. Letters of support from the industry are also encouraged.**

**Note: Funding is not available for general overhead cost.**