2026 Call for Proposals

Red Raspberry Research

The Washington Red Raspberry Commission (WRRC) is issuing a request for proposals for research in the upcoming year (January – December 2026). WRRC is interested in supporting projects that align with the current research priorities (Appendix A). WRRC research grants are open to non-profit organizations, including commodity groups/associations and farmers' groups, private enterprises such as pest consultants and food processors, and university and extension programs.

The deadline for submission for proposals is **December 12, 2025**. WRRC reserves the right to consider proposals at their discretion outside of the RFP response period.

WRRC will host two virtual meetings to review current projects and priorities, request short overviews of research from key researchers in the subject area, and discuss ideas and give preliminary feedback on potential proposals. The proposed meeting dates, times, and subject areas are below, but are subject to change.

October 6, 2025 – 9:00 – 10:20 am
Physiology, Entomology, and Virology/Pathology

October 7, 2025 – 9:00 – 10:20 am
Soil Health, Weeds, and Plant Breeding

Proposals must be submitted by email to Gavin Willis (gavin@redrazz.org) by the deadline date. Funds for grants are limited, and the selection process is competitive. Final funding decisions for projects will be made in late January, and applicants will be notified shortly thereafter.

Proposals should utilize the fillable PDF form. Proposals should be self-explanatory and easy to understand. Each item in the proposal form must be addressed. Objectives for projects should be specific and measurable. For questions or clarifications, please contact Gavin Willis.

Ongoing Research

Reports for current WRRC-funded research are due on **December 12, 2025**. Reports should include the project number and title, the personnel involved and the reporting period, project accomplishments, a brief summary of results, and a list of any resulting publications. Progress reports for ongoing projects should report on the past year of work, and final reports for completed projects should report on the entire project. Progress reports shall be limited to one page, and final reports limited to three pages (not including figures and references). Submit project reports by email in PDF format to Gavin Willis (gavin@redrazz.org).

2026 WRRC Research Priorities

Tier 1 Priorities	**Mite Management** *New tools for mite management, along with MRLs, with a focus on increased effectiveness and shorter PHI.*
	Labor Saving Practices *Includes pruning efficiency, public/private technology partnerships, and harvester automation.*
	Cultivar Development *Key characteristics include summer bearing, high yielding, winter hardy, machine-harvestable, disease and virus resistant, and superior processed fruit quality, as well as season extension.*
	Spotted Wing Drosophila *Management options for control of SWD, including targeting larvae.*
	Foliar & Cane Diseases *Includes cane botrytis, spur blight, yellow rust, cane blight, and powdery mildew.*
Tier 2 Priorities	**Fruit Rot** *Pre-harvest, post-harvest, and/or shelf life issues.*
	Cane Management *Including suppression, and alternatives to Gramoxone.*
	Leafroller & Cutworm Management *Including tools for management during harvest.*
	Soil Fumigation Techniques and Alternatives *Methods to control soil pathogens (eg. Phytophthora), nematodes (eg. dagger), and weeds.*
	Weed Management *Including horsetail, poison hemlock, wild buckwheat, nightshade, watergrass, Japanese knotweed, curly dock, and morning glory. Special interest in in-season post-emergent control.*
Tier 3 Priorities	**Irrigation Management** *Application techniques to improve plant health, crop yields, and water use efficiency.*
	Snail Control *Understanding life cycle and management strategies.*
	Soil Ecology *Biology, nutrient balance, & soil-borne pathogens and their effects on plant health and crop yields.*
	Thrips *Understanding life cycle and control strategies.*
	Root Weevils *Identify populations and control strategies.*
	Alternative Management Systems *Changes to planting densities, row spacing, trellising, etc. to improve fruit yield per linear foot of bed.*
	Nutrient Management *Update specs for timing, varieties, application techniques, calcium levels, and nutrient balance.*
	Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) *Including residue decline curves and harmonization.*
	Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Control
	Pest Management Impacts on Pollinators
	BRIX Impacts from Fungicide and Fertility Programs
	Viruses, Crumbly Fruit, & Pollination
	Fresh Marketing Viability