

WASHINGTON TURFGRASS SEED COMMISSION REQUEST FOR 2027 RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The Washington Turfgrass Seed Commission (WTSC) is requesting research proposals for the 2027-2028 fiscal year for projects that will benefit Washington State's turfgrass industry.

Annual Funding Requirement

The Washington Turfgrass Seed Commission approves and funds research projects on a one-year basis only. The Commission will consider proposals that are part of a multi-year research project; however, approval of funding for one year does not constitute a commitment to fund the project in future years.

Researchers seeking continued funding for a multi-year project must submit a new proposal each year. Each proposal will be reviewed and evaluated as part of that year's competitive research funding process.

Applicants must clearly identify which WTSC research priority or priorities listed below their proposed project addresses.

PRODUCTION RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR 2027

The focus of the WTSC research program is to fund research which addresses the following research priorities

High Priorities

1. Weed Management

- **Areas of Focus**
 - POA Annual
 - Alkali Grass
- AI and Technology for Weed Management

2. Other Areas of Focus

- **Varietal Development**
 - Quicker Germination
 - Vernalization
 - Can the Vernalization Process Be Expedited?
 - How Does Vernalization Affect Seed Production
 - Timing
- **Turfgrass Management Training Program**
 - Development of a turfgrass management training program and educational curriculum designed to provide practical, accessible training resources for turfgrass managers and other industry professionals.
- **AI and Technology for Pest and Other Issues**
- **Production, Processing, Irrigation, Transportation , Handling, Distribution, Markets for By-Products, Benefits of Turfgrass**

DEADLINES

September 2026 - RFP issued based on research priorities for calendar year 2027.

December 1, 2026 - Deadline for submission of research proposals to the WTSC for 2027 projects.

December 1, 2026 - A written Progress Report is due for any multi-year project for which continued funding is being requested. The report should summarize work completed to date, preliminary or current results, and how Commission funds have been used. Submission of this report is required for the project to be considered for additional funding.

December 10, 2026 - WTSC Commissioners will meet to evaluate the 2027 research proposals. Researchers submitting proposals may be asked to present their proposal to the Commission at the February Commission meeting. Researchers selected to make a presentation will be notified following the December Commission meeting.

February 4, 2027 – The Commission will meet and invited researchers will their research proposals to the Commissioners prior to final funding decisions. The WTSC will approve final 2027 research projects and notify applicants of funding decisions.

Annual Final Report – A written report is required at the end of each year in which a project receives WTSC funding. The report should summarize the work completed during that funding year, results obtained to date, and how Commission funds were used. The Annual Final Report should provide greater detail than the Progress Report submitted in December.

Project Final Report – Upon completion of the overall research project, a comprehensive written report is required. The Project Final Report should summarize the entire project, including final results, conclusions, recommendations, and the overall benefit or relevance of the research to Washington's turfgrass seed industry.

Payment - Payment for a funded project will not be issued until the required Annual Final Report/Project Final Report has been received by the Washington Turfgrass Seed Commission.

Research proposals, reports, and questions regarding submissions should be directed to:

Shane Johnson
Washington Turfgrass Seed Commission
Email: shanej@agmgt.com
Phone: (509) 585-5460

PROPOSAL CONTENT

The Washington Turfgrass Seed Commission is seeking research projects that address its current priorities and benefit Washington's turfgrass seed industry. Funding is open to university and Extension programs, nonprofit organizations, commodity and grower groups, and qualified private enterprises. Funding is limited, competitive, and restricted to direct costs.

Researchers requesting continued funding for a multi-year project must submit a progress report by December 1. An Annual Final Report/Project Final Report is due before payment is issued.

Researchers may be asked to present their proposal to the Commission during its February meeting before final funding decisions are made. Those selected to present will be notified following the December Commission meeting.

Proposals must be submitted electronically as a Word or PDF attachment to Shane Johnson at shanej@agmgt.com by the stated deadline.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORMAT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Proposals should be self-explanatory and easily understood by producers.
2. Address each item listed in the research proposal outline.
3. Clearly identify the WTSC research priority or priorities addressed by the proposed project.
4. Emphasize the anticipated benefits of the project and explain how the results could solve an industry problem, improve production practices, reduce risks or costs, or otherwise benefit Washington turfgrass seed producers.
5. Provide specific and measurable project objectives that can reasonably be accomplished during the proposed funding period.

6. WTSC funding is approved for one year at a time. If a proposal is submitted as a continuation of a multi-year research project, a new proposal must be submitted for each year of requested funding. Continued funding is not guaranteed.
7. A continuation proposal will be evaluated competitively as a new funding request and should include updated objectives for the proposed funding year, along with a summary of progress and results from the previously funded work.
8. Maximum proposal length is four pages. No exceptions.
9. Use 1-inch margins and 12-point Times New Roman font. Charts may use a smaller font and adjusted margins when necessary to fit the page.
10. Number all pages.
11. All requested information must be included in the proposal.
12. Researchers with previously funded WTSC projects must submit the required written progress or final report by the applicable deadline. Payment will not be issued until the required written report has been received.

WASHINGTON TURFGRASS SEED COMMISSION
RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR 2027

New Project Proposal (Yes/No): _____ **Proposed Duration (1, 2, or 3 years):** _____

Project Title: _____

PI: _____

Co-PI: _____

Organization: _____

Organization: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Address 2: _____

Address 2: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Cooperators: _____

Year Initiated: _____ **Current Year:** _____ **Terminating Year:** _____

Total Project Request: **Year 1 \$** _____ **Year 2 \$** _____ **Year 3 \$** _____

Other Funding Sources: *(If no other funding sources are anticipated, type in "None".)*

Agency Name: _____

Amount Requested/Awarded: *(Circle either amount requested or awarded)* _____

Notes: _____

Description: *(Less than 200 words, describing objectives and specific outcomes)*

Justification and Background: *(400 words maximum)*

- Provide a statement that clearly defines the issue you plan to address
- Why you plan to address it
- State how this project relates to other projects in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest

Methodology: (400 words maximum)

- Anticipated length of project
- What will be done and when

Anticipated Benefits and Information Transfer: (100 words maximum)

- What specific benefits will result from this project for producers and/or the turfgrass seed industry? Be clear and direct.
- How will results be transferred to users?

References:

Budget: (Indirect or overhead costs are not allowed)

Budget Item	2027	2028	2029
Salaries ¹	\$	\$	\$
Time-Slip	\$	\$	\$
Operations (goods & services)	\$	\$	\$
Travel ²	\$	\$	\$
Meetings	\$	\$	\$
Other	\$	\$	\$
Equipment ³	\$	\$	\$
Benefits ⁴	\$	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$	\$

Budget Justification:

¹Specify type of position and FTE

²Provide brief justification for travel requested. All travel must directly benefit project. Travel for professional development should come from other sources. If you request travel to meetings, state how it benefits project.

³Justify equipment funding requests. Indicate what you plan to buy, how the equipment will be used, and how the purchase will benefit the growers. Include attempt to work cooperatively with others on equipment use and purchase.

⁴Included here are tuition, medical aid, and health insurance for Graduate Research Assistants, as well as regular benefits for salaries and time-slip employees.

**WASHINGTON TURFGRASS SEED COMMISSION
PROGRESS REPORT FORMAT FOR 2026 PROJECTS**

Project No.: _____

Title: _____

Personnel: _____

Reporting Period:

- Report for past year except for termination year (i.e. at the end of the 3-year project period), when a complete project summary/termination is requested.

Accomplishments:

- What are the main accomplishments of the project and their significance in terms of the problem solved or enhancements to the industry?
- What has contributed to science and/or industry?

Results:

- Provide a summary of the results.

Publications:

- List publications, technical reports, popular articles, or other outputs have resulted from the project?

****Note:** Limit annual Progress Report to one page and Termination Report to two pages, except for publications.