

FROM: Mary McDonnell

DATE: August 6, 2026

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH

In an effort to ensure that industry resources are being utilized in an efficient and effective manner, the California Olive Committee (COC) has established a policy to seek proposals from outside organizations and/or individuals that are interested in conducting research on behalf of the COC. Specifically, the COC requests proposals from qualified companies, universities and/or individuals to demonstrate their capabilities in conducting research that will ultimately benefit California olive growers and processors by increasing the efficiency of olive production and processing practices in California. The COC Research Subcommittee met and established the 2027 research priorities. These priorities must be conducted only on Manzanillo and Sevillano ripe olive varieties.

California Olive Committee Research Priorities for 2027

- Olive Fruit Fly Management: Evaluate and develop improved Olive Fruit Fly control methods, including new trapping and attract-and-kill technologies, enhanced attractants, membranes and delivery systems, and a review of existing research on Olive Fruit Fly sterilization
- Development of systemic Olive Knot controls, emphasizing soil-applied treatments
- Management of Peacock Spot
- Evaluation of drone technology and satellite mapping pertaining to moisture evaluation and crop load estimates
- Mechanical harvesting on existing and new high-density orchards
- Development of Loosening Agents
- Olive DNA evaluation to distinguish between different varieties in the market place
- Determine costs of preventative measures relating to the spread of Xylella-Fastidiosa (XF)
- Pollination assist techniques focused on Manzanillo/ Field measurement tool to determine optimal pollination timing
- Investigation of Urea as a thinning agent. What is the cost and optimal application rate? Where is it currently being used?
- Management of Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter and leafhoppers through chemical control and mass trapping.
- Biological Control of Black Scale
- Unexplained Crop Failures specifically in the South
- Health Claims backed with Research for Canned California Ripe Olives
- Development and Evaluation of Foliar Disease Controls: Screen fungal and bacterial control agents and reformulate existing treatments to improve efficacy and address resistance

Researchers interested in submitting proposals must be aware of the following:

1. Project proposals are due **Friday, October 30th, 2026 by 5:00 p.m. PST**
2. Proposal format can be seen on the following page



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3. Researchers are expected to provide a recorded video presentation no longer than 10 minutes discussing proposals in preparation for the COC Research Subcommittee meeting.
4. Projects selected for funding begin January 1, 2027 and conclude December 31, 2027.

Please email proposals to mmcdonnell@calolive.org no later than **October 30th, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. PST.**
Please contact our office with any questions. We look forward to reviewing the proposals.

Respectfully,

Mary McDonnell
Program Supervisor
California Olive Committee

California Olive Committee Research Proposal Format

Proposal text should not exceed 8 pages. However, this limit does not include budget support summary, budget page, and literature cited. Please use Times New Roman, 12 point. Create the proposal with 1 inch margins left, right, and top and 1.5-inch margin at the bottom with pages numbered at the bottom. Include the requested details:

Project Title:

Principal Investigator(s) (PI):

Indicate the contact PI for correspondence and questions. Include institutional affiliation, address, phone number, and email address.

Cooperator(s):

Indicate the roles of each cooperator, and ensure they are aware of their proposed participation.

Objective(s) of Proposed Research:

Point by point, logically arrange and prioritize the objectives.

Justification and Importance of Proposed Research:

Describe the previous work that has been done to date and the importance of the proposed research to the table olive industry.

Procedures to Accomplish Objective(s):

For each objective, discuss the experimental procedures you proposed to employ. Be specific enough to discuss plot design, anticipated statistical analysis, methods used in the experiment and parameters of data collection.

Timetable for Project:

Develop a timetable showing when the research to accomplish objectives will be initiated and completed.

Present Outlook and Estimated Success in Accomplishing Objective(s):

Budget Support Summary by Objective(s):

It is important to prepare a sufficiently detailed budget. Also, list other agencies, along with the amount requested for each objective, to which this proposal, or one or more of the objectives, have been submitted for funding.

Total Budget Request:

Please prepare a budget which reflects your needs each year for the length of the proposed project - up to three years. Although funding is granted on a year-to-year basis, continuation of projects must be justified annually.

Prepare a budget page using the following format:

	<u>% of Time On Project</u>	<u>Request Year One</u>	<u>Projected Year Two</u>	<u>Projected Year 3</u>
Personnel				
SRA/Tech				
Lab Assistant				
Other				
Employee Benefits				
Supplies and Expenses				
Items and Cost				
Equipment (itemize when cost >\$1,000)				
Items/Cost/Justification*				
Travel				
Trips/Purpose/Costs				
Computer Time				
Overhead (where appropriate)				
Indirect Costs**				

(*Be specific in terms of actual hours per day or week of estimated use.)

Literature Cited:

Include pertinent reference.

Approval by:

Signature of the department chair or other person who review your research funding.