

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Applications are due March 15th.



SPROut, The Sustainable Plant Research and Outreach Center, is a partnership of the Oregon Garden Foundation, Oregon State University, the Institute for Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the USDA and numerous other public and private institutions.

SPROut's MISSION

The core mission of SPROut is to develop the use of plants and plant-based technologies for environmental sustainability purposes. The use of plants to provide or augment ecosystem services includes phytoremediation, restoration of degraded riparian areas, wastewater treatment wetlands and urban stormwater management among others.

SPROut will fulfill this mission by supporting development of new techniques, new plants, and new propagation methods as well as new uses of familiar plant species. Along with its core mission, the aim of SPROut is to serve as a clearinghouse of information related to plant-based research and funding, identify plants that have both environmental uses and potential economic value to the nursery industry, and to educate the horticulture, environmental and allied professions as well as a wider public audience about new plants and plant-based technologies.

SPROut is uniquely situated to facilitate interagency cooperation on research projects and to use the Oregon Garden site for field trials of emerging technologies or new plant varieties, facilities for professional education and training, and opportunities for public outreach and education.

Check out the SPROut website for more details.

http://oregongarden.org/SPROUT/SPROUT_Home.html

SPROut GRANTS for 2005

ELIGIBILITY

SPROut is seeking funding applications from the public and private sectors for development of projects that further SPROut's mission. Local watershed councils, agencies involved in environmental management, education or restoration, schools, universities, non-governmental organizations, professionals and practitioners are all eligible for SPROUT grants. Organizations from all parts of Oregon and from other areas in the Northwest are encouraged to apply.

FUNDING AMOUNTS

SPROut's initial grant funding will be a maximum of \$15,000 for each project. A one-to-one match of funds will be required through financial contributions or in-kind materials, facilities, or services.

HOW SPROut's FUNDING PRIORITIES WERE IDENTIFIED

SPROut's funding priorities are based on research conducted for SPROut's strategic plan, recommendations from the SPROUT advisory council, and results of a regional Sustainable Plant Workshop hosted by the Oregon Garden.

The workshop, held on October 7, 2004, targeted professionals throughout Oregon and Washington whose work in nursery production, horticulture, environmental science and design, landscape restoration, stormwater management, phytoremediation, and natural resource management involves the use of plants for environmental sustainability purposes. Over 130 people attended and, in focus groups, participants discussed the current challenges and opportunities in their work.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

SPROut is interested in supporting innovative projects that further the use of plants in providing ecosystem services. Successful projects will address environmental challenges in unique ways; indicate support/partnerships with other agencies, communities or stakeholders; and provide for development and dissemination of research results. For this initial round of grant funding, priority will be given to those projects that make active use of the Oregon Garden site, so as to create a central and visible presence for SPROut. However, SPROut recognizes the value of work being done on other sites and will offer dissemination assistance to any projects that fit the SPROut mission.

HOW WE'LL DECIDE

Eligible projects will include those that reflect an awareness of current environmental challenges, innovative approaches to solving environmental problems with plants, and thoughtful and appropriate methods of outreach and dissemination of the processes and results of the project. The Institute for Natural Resources will conduct a scientific review of the proposals and a committee at the Oregon Garden will determine compatibility of the project with the aesthetic, safety, and visitor service missions of the Garden site. Grant recipients will be required to sign a research agreement with the Oregon Garden.

SAMPLE PROJECTS

In order to assist applicants in a clearer understanding of potential SPROut projects, we've described Barley Straw for Aquatic Algae Control, an existing SPROut project, below. We've also listed many of the recommendations that were developed at the Sustainable Plant Workshop. These are suggestions only, however, and are not intended to discourage the submittal of other project ideas. If you have any questions about SPROut research priorities or the recommendations below, please contact Renee Stoops, SPROut Coordinator rstoops@OregonGarden.org; tel: 503-874-8268.

BARLEY STRAW FOR AQUATIC ALGAE CONTROL

At Oregon State University Dr. Patrick Hayes is studying the effectiveness of barley straw in controlling aquatic algae. Algae can be a particular problem in ornamental and treatment ponds, affecting the health, function and aesthetic quality of the water. While there has been anecdotal evidence about the ability of barley straw to reduce algae in ponds, there was little unbiased proof.

Using the Oregon Garden as one of three test sites (the others are irrigation ponds at J.Frank Schmidt and Co. and garden ponds constructed by Neil Jensen), Dr. Hayes is evaluating the efficacy of barley straw in reducing aquatic algae. He and his colleagues are recording air and water temperature, identifying algae species, measuring the algal weight, and measuring water quality.

The results of Dr. Hayes's research are posted on a website at www.barleyworld.org. Signs at the Oregon Garden provide information to Garden visitors about the project. The text explains the presence of straw in the ponds, and describes the collaborative research being undertaken at the Garden.

Dr. Hayes's research accomplishes all of the objectives of SPROut: it addresses an environmental problem or challenge; utilizes plants (in this case a plant byproduct) to solve the problem; involves other agencies in partnership (OSU, J. Frank Schmidt and Co., etc.); actively disseminates information and results of the research; and it is a significant and educational presence at the Oregon Garden.

Recommendations from the Sustainable Plant Workshop Focus Groups, October 7, 2004

This list contains some of the collective recommendations of a group of local and regional professionals in plant and environmental fields. Though significant work is already being done in some of these areas, these recommendations attempt to highlight knowledge dissemination challenges as well as the gaps in knowledge. SPROut will focus on the plant-based elements of these (or other) issues.

Phytoremediation/Wetlands

- Identify best native plants, and treatment wetland design guidelines for wetland phytoremediation of pollutants, including residential, community, and watershed scales.

- Identify related conditions for optimal phytoremediation (microbial, genetic, etc.).
- Investigate water quality comparisons between various types of treatment wetlands, and determine suitability of water for agricultural use, including food crops. Develop recommendations for regulatory and/or policy changes.
- Develop decision-making tools for communities to assist them in making appropriate decisions about wastewater treatment wetlands.
- Develop public information/outreach about the function and value of phytoremediation and/or treatment wetlands focusing on public perception and acceptance; perceived vs. actual risks (i.e., West Nile virus), etc.

Urban Stormwater/Ecoscaping

- Develop new plant-based technologies for stormwater management, greenroofs, and raingardens across all scales of urban watershed (residential to commercial/industrial).
- Determine best plants (native/non-native) for urban watershed health and pollution capture in urban landscape settings.
- Assess life cycle costs of traditional vs. emerging ecoscaping technologies.
- Develop stormwater/ecoscaping recommendations for green industry professionals, including landscape architects and nursery land-owners.
- Develop information to foster public acceptance of aesthetics of native vs. non-native landscape in urban areas.
- Create demonstration landscapes at the Oregon Garden that show principles of environmentally sustainable urban landscaping, including landscaping around parking lots, roadways, impervious pathways, buildings, and small water features.
- Develop recommendations and plant-based technologies for reducing urban heat island effect in NW cities.
- Create demonstration gardens at the Oregon Garden showing water usage/conservation/rainwater harvest in urban landscapes
- Identify plants that have both environmental benefits and market potential for the nursery industry.

Restoration and Protection of Riparian Landscapes

- Identify plants that are most successful/effective in riparian restoration. Disseminate information to restoration and nursery industry to promote supply and demand.
- Develop online plant sourcing system for restoration professionals.

- Develop specific recommendations for creating residential streamside landscapes including design, appropriate species, planting, propagation and maintenance.
- Develop specific recommendations for *preserving* existing riparian landscapes in urban areas. Target to homeowner and/or landscape professionals/practitioners.
- Develop instructional material/program on riparian protection/design/maintenance targeted to landscape contractors.

Native Plant Restoration/ Controlling Invasive Species

- Develop handbook of BMPs (Best Management Practices) for control of invasive plant species.
- Identify native plants that most effectively compete with invasive non-native species.
- Develop education and outreach materials that illustrate the impact of invasive plants on native landscapes/species. Materials could be geared toward both the green industry and the public.

PREPARING YOUR SPROUT GRANT APPLICATION

Applications are due March 15th. Recipients will be notified by May 15th.

Either electronic or hard copies will be accepted. Send applications via email to Renee Stoops, SPROut Coordinator rstoops@OregonGarden.org.

Send hard copies to:

Renee Stoops
 SPROut Coordinator
 The Oregon Garden
 PO Box 155
 Silverton OR 97381

Include the following components:

Funds Requested

Indicate the total budget for the project and the amount of funds requested from SPROut.

Project Name and Description

Describe the environmental problem you are addressing in this project.

Describe the solution you are proposing to research or evaluate.

Objective

How does this project advance the use of plants for environmentally beneficial uses?

Activities/Location

Where will the project occur? If the site is not The Oregon Garden, is the property public or private?

Describe the facilities, both on-site and off-site, that are available for the project. How will site preparation, construction and maintenance be performed (if applicable)? For maintenance tasks, include frequency, method and duration.

Personnel /Qualifications

List the personnel involved with this project. List their qualifications for participation in the project. Provide full contact information for the principals.

Partnerships

List the other agencies/individuals with which you are working.
If partners are providing in-kind services, please list.

Project Schedule

List all pertinent dates for project activities.

Outreach & Dissemination

What are the target audiences for this project?
How will the projects results be disseminated to the target audience(s)?
How will dissemination be coordinated with the Oregon Garden?

Budget

Include information on how SPROut funds will be spent. Ineligible expenditures include overhead charges; capital construction; capital equipment purchases such as computers or GPS units; and facility rental fees.

Include details on the matching funds or in-kind provision of materials, facilities, or services. A one-to-one match is required.

We've provided a sample budget form below. You may use it or provide your own completed project budget along with your grant application.

SAMPLE BUDGET

SPROut Project Title:

Grant amount: \$15,000

Item	Total	50% MATCH		50% SPROut	Total
		Applicant	Partner #1		
Item #1	\$1,000	\$500		\$500	\$1,000
Item #2	\$3,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$3,000
Item #3	\$4,000	\$2,000		\$2,000	\$4,000
Item #4	\$10,000	\$5,000		\$5,000	\$10,000
Item #5	\$12,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$12,000
Total	\$30,000	\$11,000	\$4,000	\$15,000	\$30,000