

## APPLICATION EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Grant applications will be reviewed by an Advisory Committee. Applications will be evaluated based on the merit of the submitted proposal narrative and the criteria listed below. See Application Guidelines in the previous section for requirements. Recommendations may be made to suggest adjustments to the monetary grant requests, proposed scope of work, and/or project budgets.

Criteria	Maximum Points	Points Received
<b>Project Purpose</b>		
How well does the applicant define the issue, problem, or need the project will address?	5	
Does this project address a significant problem or important need for Mississippi's specialty crop industry?	5	
Is this project relevant and timely to Mississippi's specialty crop industry?	5	
<b>Potential Impact</b>		
Does the project provide a direct and positive benefit to Mississippi's specialty crop producers?	5	
Does the applicant clearly demonstrate how the project will have an impact the specialty crop industry (and on more than one grower)?	5	
To what extent will the project enhance the competitiveness of Mississippi's specialty crop industry?	5	
<b>Expected Measurable Outcomes</b>		
Does the project have at least one distinct, quantifiable, and measurable outcome that directly supports the project purpose?	5	
Does the applicant describe how the outcomes will be monitored and data collected?	5	
Are the goals realistic and obtainable?	5	
<b>Work Plan</b>		
Do the tasks and activities relate to the project objectives?	5	
Is the timeline reasonable to successful complete the goals and objectives?	5	

How well do the activities match the needs or problems that are being addressed?	5	
<b>Budget</b>		
Do requested budget items correlate to the purpose/goals of the project?	5	
Is the budget narrative clearly outlined and itemized with justification of expenses?	5	
Are the expected benefits proportionate to the total investment?	5	
<b>Overall Application</b>		
Does the project have adequate oversight to endure proper administration?	5	
Does the overall application present a clear, focused, and viable plan to increase the competitiveness of Mississippi specialty crops?	5	
Is this project supported by the specialty crop industry/growers by letters of support?	5	
The extent to which the project, if successfully completed, will make an important contribution to the enhancement of the competitiveness of Mississippi specialty crops.	5	
Is the application complete, answering all questions and providing sufficient detail?	5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	