Maryland Native Plant Society Research Grants

# Background and Scope

* The Maryland Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote awareness, appreciation, and conservation of Maryland's native plants and their habitats through education, research, advocacy, and service.
* MNPS has allocated funds to support a small number of annual grants for research that will further its mission.
* A committee comprising Maryland educators, scientists, and native plant experts will review applications and administer the awards.
* The committee may make choose to fund more than one grant; the maximum amount awarded to any applicant will be **$3000**.
* **To ensure consideration, proposals should be submitted by 25 March 2024.**

# Eligibility Requirements for Applicants and Projects

The Society encourages researchers at all levels to apply, but anyone may apply whose project meets the following criteria:

* The project must concern Maryland native bryophytes, vascular plants, and/or the habitats of Maryland native plants.
* The project may also concern plants or habitats outside Maryland if:
  + The applicant demonstrates that the results of the project will add to the body of knowledge about plants and habitats in Maryland; or
  + An appreciable portion of the plant specimens or research sites come from or are located in Maryland.
* The project may concern the effects of invasive non-native plants on Maryland native plants and habitats.
* The project must be empirical, hypothesis-driven research.

Following these criteria, projects in a number of different fields and disciplines may be appropriate, for example: botany, ecology, genetics, education, environmental restoration, horticulture, and silviculture.

# Restrictions

* The MNPS research grant may be used in conjunction with other funding for a larger scale project. If this is the case, the proposal should describe the scope of the entire project, the entire budget, the portion of the budget for which MNPS award money will be spent, and why the additional grant funds are necessary.
* No portion of the grant funds may be used to pay institutional overhead or indirect costs. Most universities will waive overhead and indirect costs under two circumstances: (a) the grant is relatively modest in size, and/or (b) the awarding institution (i.e., MNPS) does not allow it. If the above statement disallowing funds to be used for overhead is insufficient, the grants committee will provide additional documentation and evidence for this policy.
* Grant funds are for supplies, equipment, lab analyses, and transportation where appropriate; except in rare circumstances, they may not be used for living expenses, stipends, per diems, etc. If the application includes automobile mileage, it should be calculated at the rate of $0.14 per mile. Any equipment purchased with grant funds is understood to become property of the institution with which the researcher is affiliated.

# Evaluation Criteria

* Significance:  Does the project address an important problem relevant to Maryland native plants? Will the project advance knowledge and practice in its discipline?
* Appropriateness of budget:  Is there clear justification and rationale for the expenditure of the award monies? Can the proposed work be accomplished with the funds requested or is there evidence that additional expenses will be covered by other sources of funding?
* Research approach: The conceptual framework, design, methods, and planned analyses must be logical, sound, and appropriate.
* Innovation:  Does the proposed research employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Does the proposal research have original and innovative aims?
* Audience:  The proposal should be clear, understandable, and communicable to a wide audience and have implications for all members of MNPS (e.g., academics, professionals, government officials, private citizens).
* Realistic time frame: Can the project can be completed and the funds used within 2 years of award date?

# Deliverables

* All grant award recipients will be required to deliver a progress report to the MNPS within one month of the proposed end date of their projects.
* A report of the findings of the project is required within one year of completing it. The format of the report will vary based on the type of project and will be mutually agreed upon by the awardee and grants committee.
* Awardees should be aware that a synopsis of their research might be placed on the MNPS web site. This synopsis will be of such a nature as not to preclude subsequent publication of the research.
* It is strongly encouraged that the results be presented at a MNPS program.

# To Apply

* **To ensure consideration, please submit your proposal by 25 March 2024.**
* Copy this document and delete the first two pages.
* Follow the instructions in the proposal template, making sure to fill in all fields in brackets. Use 12 pt. font with 1-inch margins.
  + The applicant’s last name(s), an abbreviated title, and page number should be provided as a running header.
  + Remove the instructions in parentheses before submission.
* Email the proposal as a single document to [grants@mdflora.org](mailto:grants@mdflora.org).
  + . pdf format preferred; if possible, combine all documents into one pdf
  + .doc, or .docx will also work
* Questions may be addressed to [grants@mdflora.org](mailto:grants@mdflora.org).

(Instructions: Throughout the form, parentheses enclose general instructions; brackets enclose areas where material should be inserted plus any guidelines or special instructions. You may, and should, delete the parenthetical and bracketed instructions before finishing your application.

You should keep your application limited to four or fewer single-spaced pages, including the title page. Conciseness is appreciated.

A model running header has been provided; if it is lost when you begin your application, move the following information items to the header and make sure the header repeats.

[Applicant Surname] [Abbrev. Title] [page #] )

[Insert Project Title]

## Names of Grant Applicant:

[**First Name Last Name in Bold**]

## Names of Primary Contact (if other than above):

[**First Name Last Name in Bold**]

## Mailing Address:

[Street Address]

[Town State Zip]

Email Address: [username@domain]

Telephone: [###-###-####]

## Institution:

## Status: [Undergraduate, Graduate, PostDoc, Faculty, Other]

## Amount of funding requested from MNPS:

## Abstract:

[Summarize proposal for a general audience in approximately 50 words or less]

(The following should start a new page. Fill out each section in 12-pt font, 1” margins, single-spaced. Keep your answers as succinct and to the point as possible. The proposal should be clear, understandable, and communicable to a wide audience and have implications for all members of MNPS e.g.: academics, professionals, officials, private citizens.)

# Project Details

## Project Goals and Objectives:

[List project goals, objectives, and/or hypotheses.]

## Significance:

[Does the project address an important problem relevant to Maryland Native Plants? Will the project advance knowledge and practice in its discipline? Does the proposed research employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Does the proposal research have original and innovative aims?]

## Budget Justification:

[Include an itemized list that facilitates understanding of the project approach and goals and lists reasonable estimates of costs; Include information if there is matching funding. Total amount awarded will not exceed $3000. Unless it is abundantly apparent why the funding is needed, in a sort paragraph, provide clear justification and rationale for the expenditure of the award monies. State whether the proposed work can be accomplished with the funds requested and if not, explain how additional expenses will be covered by other sources of funding.]

[Describe and name any required coordination with other individuals, institutions or organizations.]

## Context:

[*This can be a bulleted list.* Is this project a stand-alone endeavor, a stage in an on-going project, or part of a larger project? What is the organization(s)/institution(s) for which or in which you will be doing your project? If you are a student or are not the primary researcher/project manager for your department or institution, provide any relevant credentials for project supervisors, principal instructors, etc. ]

## Research Methods:

[Briefly describe your experimental design and methodology. Keep the jargon and abbreviations to a minimum and write for an educated but lay audience. Diagrams are welcome if they add clarity. Make sure it is clear how your methods will help answer your research question. The conceptual framework, design, methods, and planned analyses must be sound and logical.]

## Project timeline & schedule:

Proposed Date work will begin: [If exact date is not known, provide month and year]

Proposed Date work will end: [Note that MNPS will require a brief progress report one month after this date, and a formal report one year from the date.]

[Explain the time-frame for the project: Can the project can be completed and the funds used within 2 years of the award date? Provide a short timeline description of the project, especially focusing on the stages of the project that will funded by the grant.]

**How did you learn about the availability of this grant?**

# Agreement

I [full name of applicant] avow that the information provided in this proposal is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

(Remember to attach a copy of your *curriculum* *vitae* or resume. Please keep the length under 3 pages.)