

# CALIFORNIA GRAPE ROOTSTOCK IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION

## CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The California Grape Rootstock Improvement Commission (CGRIC) is now receiving research proposals for Funding Year 2025-2026. **Project proposals are due January 31, 2025.**

CGRIC was formed in 1993 by a vote of producers of grapevine rootstock and grafted grapevines. The mission of the organization is **“to fund and support grape rootstock research for the enhancement of the California viticulture and grape nursery industry.”**

Suggested research topics include:

### **Development/Improvement of Rootstock Varieties:**

- Identifying the genes and/or physiological processes that are associated with desirable rootstock characteristics that haven't already been identified such as:
  - Resistance to viral, fungal and/or bacterial pathogens; nematodes; phylloxera, mealybugs, thrips and other insect pests.
  - Salt, drought and heat tolerance.
  - Vigor, soil compatibility and graftability
  - Improved grape phenotypic characteristics such as accelerated ripening, targeted fruit set, etc.,
- Using traditional breeding or CRISPR/Gene-editing techniques to develop new or enhanced rootstock varieties to provide such characteristics as listed above.

### **Cleanliness – Sanitation:**

- Best practices for maintaining clean source materials.
- Economic impact of clean source materials.
- Preventing vine to vine contamination.
- Alternatives to hot water treatment.
- Control of rot and other storage issues.
- Impact of cultural practices within the nursery and production vineyards of trunk disease pathogens.

### **Development of Efficient Production Practices:**

- Improving rootstock yields and quality in nursery motherblocks, greenhouses and dormant nurseries
- Improved mechanization of nursery production practices such as rootstock harvest, grafting, planting, etc.,

### **Impact of Climate Change on Rootstock Performance**

- Regional analysis on how existing varieties perform in changing climatic conditions

- Impact of various cultural practices on improved sustainability to higher heat/lower water conditions

CGRIC is working cooperatively within the Unified Grant Management for Viticulture and Enology website, which includes the following commodity groups and funding agencies to maximize the available research funds: American Vineyard Foundation (AVF), California Grape Rootstock Research Foundation and the Oregon Wine Board (OWB). Representatives from all the named groups have been working together to streamline the research proposal submittal and review process.

Please submit your proposal online at <http://uvegrants.ucdavis.edu>

If you have any questions, please contact CGRIC at 916/441-2031.