

## **CRAFT Cycle Six Program Rules and Requirements**

### **Application Requirements**

1. Applicants must be the grower/entity listed by the county property appraiser as the owner of the intended CRAFT project property. Applicants will be required to certify their total ownership of the property by providing Parcel ID information.
2. Applicants will be required to certify their total acreage of owned citrus groves. If an applicant owns more than one entity, only acreage totals related to the tax ID applying for participation should be reported.
3. Cycle Six projects are not limited by variety. However, special consideration will be given to solid-set plantings for Early and Program for Expedited Propagation (PEP) varieties as provided in **Appendix One: Factors of Interest**.
4. All tree planting must occur between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2026. Projects planted prior to July 1, 2024, will not be considered for inclusion in CRAFT Cycle Six. Any trees planted prior to the final execution of the CRAFT Grower Participation Agreement is solely at the applicant's risk with no guarantee of project approval.
5. A proposed project grove must be enrolled in the FDACS BMP Program for Florida Citrus prior to application submission. Information about enrollment in the BMP program is available at: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Water/Agricultural-Best-Management-Practices>.
6. Applicants must provide documentation of an executed tree contract from a certified tree nursery for trees related to the proposed project.
7. Applicants must have an FDACS, Division of Plant Industry, Grower/Caretaker Compliance Agreement that includes all proposed project groves.
8. Applicants must be a commercial grower and the proposed project may be from any citrus-producing region in the state of Florida.
9. The proposed project grove may not be enrolled in a prior-cycle CRAFT program.
10. A participant with a prior-cycle CRAFT Grower Participation Agreement must be up to date with all data submission requirements related to their prior-cycle CRAFT projects by November 1, 2024, for their Cycle Six applications to be eligible for consideration.

### **Proposed CRAFT Project Minimum Requirements**

1. Projects should focus on HLB mitigation treatments and practices, however, factors related to underlying stressors causing trees to not thrive or satisfactorily produce harvestable fruit may be the subject of projects in Cycle Six.
2. Solid-block and reset new tree planting applications must include a minimum of 20 contiguous acres and may not exceed 250 contiguous acres.

3. Applications for solid-set plantings featuring Program for Expedited Propagation (PEP) materials must be between 20 and 50 contiguous acres. (See **Appendix One: Factors of Interest** for additional details).
4. For growers owning less than 2,500 acres, parcels smaller than 20 acres will be considered on a case-by-case basis where there is scientific merit and value to CRAFT.
5. Applications for proposed reset projects must show that resets account for at least 10% of the final grove tree census.
6. Applications may be submitted for orange tree plantings in Citrus Under Protective Screens (CUPS).
7. Applicants must sign the CRAFT Grower Participation Agreement that will provide the final approved experimental design with which the participant must comply.
8. Applicants must comply with the standard methods for planting trees as provided in: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1302>.
9. All project inputs must be applied in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, including FIFRA.
10. Cycle Six projects may be subject to variable participation payment rates based on the type of project as provided in **Appendix Two: Payment Schedules**.
11. Applicants must design and submit the proposed CRAFT project in their area of interest (i.e. pest management, nutrition, rootstock/scion, etc.). Applicants are encouraged to contact CRAFT Scientific Coordinator Carisa Keller ([Carisa@craftfdn.org](mailto:Carisa@craftfdn.org)) with any questions in advance of submitting an application.

### **Application Approval Process**

1. Applicants must complete the online application through the CRAFT portal available at [www.craftfdn.org](http://www.craftfdn.org). Applications will be accepted beginning August 1, 2024. All applications must be confirmed in the online portal system by November 1, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (EST). Applications will be date and time stamped upon receipt and a confirmation email will be sent to the applicant. Applicants should contact CRAFT Assistant Program Manager Tina Buice ([Tina@craftfdn.org](mailto:Tina@craftfdn.org)) if they do not receive a confirmation email.
2. In accordance with state law, at least 60 percent of CRAFT Cycle Six funding shall be made available to growers who, for property tax purposes, have citrus groves greater than or equal to 5 acres, but less than 2,500 total acres. After the initial solicitation distribution, the remaining funding will be made available to all growers.
3. Multiple applications for **different** experiments on adjacent land from the same landowner/grower are acceptable. For example, a grower with 200 acres may apply for two separate experiments using different test factors with 100 acres per experiment. The grower would submit two applications. Two identical applications for 100 from the same 200 block will not likely be approved for both, but the same experiment conducted in different regions by the same grower could qualify since they would represent geographic diversity.

4. CRAFT staff will contact all applicants regarding their project design following application submission. Applicants must respond to CRAFT staff within 30-days of contact regarding the project design. The project details and requirements will vary between projects based on the applications selected and will be specified in the CRAFT Grower Participation Agreement. Applications may be denied for not responding to questions from CRAFT staff.
5. The CRAFT Technical Working Group, following a blind review, will make project approval recommendations to the CRAFT Board of Directors. The Board will also complete a blind review of the recommended applications and award agreements to those applications that comply with these rules and best meet program needs and research goals.

### **Participation Deliverables and Payments**

1. Participants will be required to follow the project design provided in the CRAFT Grower Participation Agreement including: the use of approved experimental factors; data collection by CRAFT or its contractors at the project site; and participant data submission through the CRAFT portal.
2. CRAFT may provide assistance with the data input process for a fee utilizing a participant's existing business and production records.
3. The CRAFT Grower Participation Agreement will contain a participant's performance deliverables and a payment schedule.
4. Participation payments will be distributed in accordance with the payment schedule provided in the Participant's fully executed CRAFT Grower Participation Agreement.
5. Payments will be made in the name of the person or entity identified in the CRAFT Grower Participation Agreement unless CRAFT receives a notarized letter of authorization from the owner providing the name of the alternate intended recipient.
6. Participants must notify CRAFT of any property ownership changes for participating property.
7. In accordance with the Agreement, the initial participation payment will be distributed after the grower successfully submits an executed tree contract between the participant and a certified tree nursery showing the payment of a deposit for trees matching the approved CRAFT project and the required claim form (CRAFT Grower Participation Agreement Attachment 6).
8. The second payment will be made following the completion of tree planting in accordance with the approved CRAFT project design and the required claim form (CRAFT Grower Participation Agreement Attachment 6).
9. Additional payments will be distributed following satisfactory submission of the required data and claim forms as outlined in the executed CRAFT Grower Participation Agreement. See **Appendix Three: Sample Data Collection Information** for examples of data requirements.

**Completion of Project**

1. Tree planting for all Cycle Six projects must be completed by June 30, 2026.
2. Participants will be required to submit scheduled reports and allow data collection as outlined in their CRAFT Grower Participation Agreement for a total of six years.