

Scoring Criteria for the Specialty Crop Grant Program (2026)

Applications will be evaluated to assess the degree to which they meet the elements of each criterion.

The program criteria (with total available points) and elements are:

Points	Proposal Section
35	Project Purpose
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates alignment with NYS Program Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses important NYS Specialty Crop problem or opportunity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly explains a solution/practice change that is aligned with the direction of the marketplace
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledges the role of economics in the development or potential adoption of solution/practice changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the likelihood of the proposed solution/practices change to be adopted by farmers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes any limitations to proposed solution/practice change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses the limitations or benefits of other work in the same research area and how this project differs or builds upon existing research
5	Target Beneficiaries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes how the project leader(s) understands the target beneficiaries and the potential scale of work proposed
15	External Project Support
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates industry support of the research and outcomes.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates support from stakeholders directly impacted by the project
25	Workplan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes a well-organized and easy to understand workplan.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates realistic proposed goals and discrete tasks that show a logical approach to project completion.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides deliverables that are comprehensive and far-reaching
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates the ability to complete the project goals within the project timeline.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies notable new approaches to research methodologies and outcomes.
10	Data Collection.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly describes a complete data collection and measurement plan to report on the outcome and indicators identified.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes a data collection plan that measures all aspects of the project's work.
10	Resource Request
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget includes detail for all project components, is cost-effective, presents necessary and realistic costs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget reflects an appropriate investment relative to the potential benefit of the work.
5	Bonus Points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project will develop and increase the utilization of IPM strategies and programs to address pests and disease threats in NY specialty crops.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project will provide research, demonstration, and training to develop, test, or increase adoption of innovative, specialized equipment for weed management.