

## Granting Guide

### Vermont Fruit & Nut Tree Grant

The Vermont Fruit & Nut Tree Grant focuses on increasing access to fruit and nut trees through plantings and related education at select community garden sites across the state, specifically in sites serving underserved populations. This grant program is a collaboration between the Vermont Garden Network (VGN) and the VT Urban & Community Forestry Program (VT UCF).

**After reviewing the following details, visit our website to apply:**

<https://vcgn.org/what-we-do/vgn-grants/>

#### Goals of the Program:

- To support planting fruit and nut trees at community garden sites in Vermont.
- To prioritize planting of these trees at sites serving underserved populations.
- To ensure survival and proper care of these trees through grant guidance, educational offerings, and sharing resources.
- To develop and share success stories and best practices for community fruit and nut tree planting, care and use.

#### Granting Priorities:

- **Required: Community-based garden site located in Vermont**
- Garden project benefits under-reached and under-resourced community members, including but not limited to: BIPOC and low-income individuals
- Garden is located in an underserved area

#### Grant Timeline:

- Application deadline: December 2, 2022
- Grantees announced & funds allocated: by January, 2023
- Project period: January 2023 - September 2023
- Final reporting due: October 13, 2023

#### What grantees receive from us:

- Funding to purchase: fruit and nut trees, related care supplies (i.e. organic fertilizer, protective fencing), community event supplies or other related costs
- Online workshop on community fruit and nut tree planting and care

- Ongoing guidance and technical support as needed
- Site visit from VGN representative (may include a workshop at select sites)

### **What we ask from grantees:**

- Host a community event or engage in other community outreach to share learning about fruit and nut trees. Whether this community outreach occurs as an in-person event or remote learning opportunity will be dependent on current public health concerns and goals of the garden community. (Spring or Fall 2023)
- Attend online workshop, or watch recording (Spring 2023)
- Complete a basic end-of-project survey about your experience. In preparation for this final report we ask that grantees track/capture the following information, including: (Fall 2023)
  - number of trees planted
  - number of people who volunteered for planting & hours spent
  - number of people who participated in community event
  - take before and after photographs of fruit and nut tree plantings

### **Vermont Fruit & Nut Tree Funding Guidelines**

*The intent of this program is to plant fruit and nut trees which will bear fruit within a few years. Please keep in mind the size of purchased plants as well as other guidance included in our Fruit & Nut Tree Selection Guide (below).*

- Funding request limited to 10 trees/site
- Size of award will be based on the number of trees requested
- Funds can be used to purchase: fruit and nut trees, shipping or delivery of fruit and nut trees if necessary, related care supplies (i.e. organic fertilizer, protective fencing), community event/outreach supplies
- Funds do not cover: payment for planting or caring for fruit and nut trees

### **Related Project Funding**

*Vermont Fruit & Nut Tree Grant applicants will have the opportunity to request additional funding as a part of their application. Limited additional funding is available for a small number of sites to complete related projects that enhance the community garden's fruit and nut tree plantings.*

- Examples of projects: irrigation for perennial plantings, companion plants for fruit trees, soil/site improvements to better suit fruit and nut tree plantings, etc.

- Typical awards will range from \$250 - \$500 per project.
- Funds do not cover: projects unrelated to fruit and nut tree plantings; payment for planting or caring for fruit and nut trees

### **Fruit & Nut Tree Selection Guide**

Please review and consider the following guidance prior to applying, when deciding the appropriate species, size, and number of trees for your site.

- If these are your first tree plantings you'll want to consider starting small, with 2-4 trees.
- Many fruit and nut tree varieties require a pollination pair - 2 trees/site ([click here for pollination info](#)).
- Consider your garden's hardiness zone and match it to the hardiness of the species when selecting trees to plant ([click here for hardiness map](#)).
- Fruit tree spacing (above ground and below ground) is another consideration when determining the number of trees that will grow successfully on your site ([click here for basic spacing info](#)).
- For additional considerations check out this [Site Assessment & Species Selection Worksheet](#). See below for more resources to guide your project.

### **Resources to Guide Project Development**

- Nut Trees for Northern Landscapes (UVM resource): <https://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/nuts.html>
- Fruit Trees for Northern Climates (UVM resource): <https://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/coldfruit.html>
- Planting Fruit Trees (UVM resource): <https://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/may02tip.html>
- Fruit Trees (UMaine Extension resource): <https://extension.umaine.edu/fruit/growing-fruit-trees-in-maine/varieties/>
- Tree Planting Guidance (VT UCF): <https://vtcommunityforestry.org/resources/tree-care/tree-planting>
- Vermont Nursery & Landscape Association: <https://vnlavt.org/>