



"Shucks"



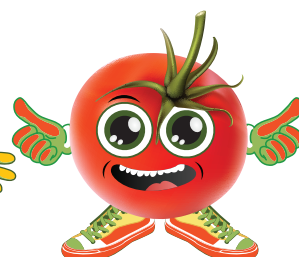
"Peat"



"Melonie"



"Bell"



"Tommie"

SPECIALTY CROP MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

I. Project Rationale

The Specialty Crop Mini-Grant Program is designed to increase students' awareness of specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture)).

II. Criteria for Schools, 4-H Clubs, and FFA Chapters

- A minimum of 100 students for average daily attendance.
- Garden must be located on or adjacent to the school site.

NEW! • A video conference with AITC staff to discuss using gardening in the curriculum is required.

- Project must be advised by a UT Extension Agent.
- A farmer volunteer, preferably a county Farm Bureau board member, must also serve as a project advisor.
- Teacher and parent involvement is mandatory.
- Applicants must have either attended an AITC workshop or agree to participate via video conference. Workshop participants will receive AITC resource materials and training on how to use the interdisciplinary material in conjunction with regular classroom learning activities.
- Most importantly, the gardens must contain specialty crops, such as fruits, tree nuts, nursery crops, or garden vegetables. Honeybees for honey production are encouraged if allowed by the school.
- This funding may not be used for butterfly gardens or nature trails. However they may be included in your project.
- Pre and post test average scores on select lessons will need to be reported to the Foundation.

III. General Information about the Mini-Grant

Foundation committee members will evaluate each application for proper criteria and study objectives before grants are awarded. Notification of acceptance or rejection of application will be delivered in writing. Money will be awarded by the county Farm Bureau leadership. Recognition, therefore, may be given on both the state and local level. There is no application deadline. Applications will be accepted as long as grant funding is available. Up to \$500 may be awarded for new garden sites. This must include matching funds. Up to \$250 may be awarded for on-going garden projects from the Foundation. This also must be matched.

IV. Matching Funds

The following resources may be able to provide matching funds for the Specialty Crop Mini-Grant:

- Tennessee Department of Agriculture
- Local school funds
- County Farm Bureau
- Local Farmers Cooperative
- Agricultural business and organizations
- Parent - Teacher organizations
- Lumber yards, hardware stores, etc...
- In-kind support, i.e. equipment, labor, materials, etc...

V. Questions

Any questions regarding the Specialty Crop Mini-Grant Program should be directed to one of the following contacts at the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation -- (931) 388-7872:

• **Chris Fleming** cfleming@tfbf.com
Tennessee AITC Coordinator, ext. 2759

• **Dan Strasser** dstrasser@tfbf.com
Director of Special Programs, ext. 2216

• **Kristy Chastine** kchastine@tfbf.com
Associate Director of Special Programs, ext. 2214

Mail completed form to AITC, PO Box 313, Columbia, TN 38402 or Fax to (931) 840-8699

- List the name(s) of teacher(s) in your school who have attended an AITC University Workshop sponsored by the Tennessee Foundation for AITC within the last three years:

• Name: _____ Grade: _____ Year attended workshop: _____

• Name: _____ Grade: _____ Year attended workshop: _____

• Name: _____ Grade: _____ Year attended workshop: _____

- List the name(s) of teacher(s) in your school who will participate in an AITC video conference workshop sponsored by the Tennessee Foundation for AITC (Please note: Trainings will be in the following grade group categories: PreK-2, 3-5, 6-12).

• Name: _____ Grade: _____ Email: _____

• Name: _____ Grade: _____ Email: _____

• Name: _____ Grade: _____ Email: _____

NEW!

- Preferred date(s) for video conference: Apple FaceTime or Polycom H.323 • _____
- Possible date(s) for a local AITC workshop: • _____ • _____
- Would your school like to host a free local AITC workshop onsite?: • _____
- Value of matching sponsorship (please include specifics on in-kind gifts such as volunteer time etc): \$ _____

- Amount of grant money you are applying for \$ _____ (**Please note:** This amount can not exceed the amount listed in the question above. The maximum amount for a start-up grant is \$500. The maximum amount for an on-going grant project is \$250)

Required

- **On an attached sheet(s) of paper, please describe and/or outline your project plans.** Please include time table, food production crops, specific need for funding, role of the cooperators, curriculum correlation, and visuals (i.e. drawings, illustrations, maps, photographs, etc...)
- Project reports and pictures are due to the Tennessee Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom by May 1.

School Principal Signature

Coordinating Teacher Signature

APPLICATION
for
TENNESSEE FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM
Specialty Crop Mini-Grant

- Name of school/club: _____ Average daily attendance: _____
- County: _____ Address: _____ City: _____
- State: _____ Zip: _____

- Name(s) of coordinating teacher(s):
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

- Phone number where you can be reached to discuss plans: (School phone): _____ Best time to call: _____
(Home phone for _____): _____ Best time to call: _____
Email: _____

- Agricultural Extension Advisor: Name: _____ Phone: _____ Signature: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

- Farmer Volunteer Advisor: Name: _____ Phone: _____ Signature: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

- List other cooperating groups:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

For Office Use

Date Received: _____

Date Approved: _____