

Virginia Wine Board Grant Report Template

1.0 INSTRUCTIONS

Use this grant report template to communicate progress on your project objectives to the Virginia Wine Board and its administrative agents.

This simplified form focuses attention on the intended and achieved results of the project, including how project results are separately shared with their intended beneficiaries. This report is not the place for a detailed technical discussion of research methodology or results.

- During the proposal stage, applicants complete the first (WHITE) sections to summarize the project's objectives, deliverables, and intended impact plus planned communication to stakeholders.
- At the midpoint of the project (December 1, due December 15), Research and Education grantees complete the center (GRAY) sections to note progress as well as expenditures to date.
- Finally, upon project conclusion (May 31, due June 30), all grantees complete the final (BLUE) sections to describe the project's results and communication, as well as final expenditures.

2.0 GRANTEE INFORMATION

Project Title	Preparing for Pierce's Disease-Ready Future Vineyard Operations				
Organization	Virginia Tech				
VWB Proposal #	26-41	Proposal # (if needed)		Award # (if needed)	
Project Lead		Mailing Address		Research	X
Name	Mizuho Nita	595 Laurel Grove Rd		Education	◊
Title	Associate Professor	Winchester, VA 22602		Marketing	◊
Email	Nita24@vt.edu			Recurring?	◊
Phone	540-232-6047			Continuing?	◊
				Year	1 of 1

3.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVE, PROGRESS, AND IMPACT

3.1 PROPOSAL (February)

Identify the specific deliverable or result that the project will produce. (1-2 sentences or bullets; Narrative section I.b.)

- Survey results on Pierce's Disease and its vectors and study results on potential new diagnostic tools for growers be presented at the VVA meetings, VCE Viticulture Extension Meeting(s), grape pathology blog, X, and Facebook.
- A research team comprised of researchers and grower collaborators who will work on current work and future studies and funding opportunities.

Summarize the project objective the result serves, including expected impact. (1-3 sentences or bullets; Narrative section I.a and II.a.)

- Growers understand how to mitigate Pierce's Disease under our environmental conditions.
 - Selection of PD-tolerant cultivars, especially in the South
 - Use of treatments against PD vectors at appropriate timings.

Summarize the project's workplan. (1-5 sentences or bullets; Narrative section III.b.)

1. Spring: Recruiting and coordinating with research team members, initiate a vector survey, maintenance service for a PCR equipment.

2. Summer: Vector and PD survey, discuss research topics and seek for funding opportunities. Compare PCR methods.
3. Fall: PCR, Data analysis, various Extension meetings, and seek for funding opportunities.
4. Winter: Various Extension meetings and seek for funding opportunities.

List the indicators that will show the project has a) made progress on its workplan, b) achieved its objective, and c) reached its audience. (1-5 sentences or bullets; Narrative section III.c.)

- Obtain results from lab (PCR evaluation) and field studies (surveys) in a timely manner.
- Delivery of information through various extension channels.
- Set goals for future research and start working on research proposals.
- Reaching more than 200 direct and 1,000 indirect contacts through activities listed above.

3.2 Mid-Year Report (December)—Research and Education Grants only

Provide project indicator status information. Describe project/workplan progress. Include any obstacles the project has encountered and the plan to overcome them.

- Survey results on Pierce's Disease and its vectors and study results on potential new diagnostic tools for growers be presented at the VVA meetings, VCE Viticulture Extension Meeting(s), grape pathology blog, X, and Facebook.
- 1) Survey: We have collected 140 samples from 22 geographically independent locations.
 - a. We sampled more than we anticipated.
 - 2) Insect survey: I distributed yellow sticky traps to 13 vineyards. Nine of them proceeded with the survey, and about six provided more than a few weeks.
 - a. The low return rate was expected.
 - 3) Diagnostics: We re-evaluated the previous protocols and modified to fit our current tools, we tested the commercial PCR and non-PCR PD kits as we planned.
 - a. We are making good progress toward our goals.
 - b. We will be testing samples in Jan-Feb, then evaluate the kits in March-April.
 - c. The LAMP procedure will be developed in Jan-Feb.
 - 4) Communication: Please see the "communication to the stakeholder" section.
- A research team comprised of researchers and grower collaborators who will work on current work and future studies and funding opportunities.
- 1) We have collaborated with regional researchers to submit PD-related research proposals to USDA/SCRI and CALS integrated Seed grants.
 - a. CALS integrated Seed grant has been awarded for \$76K.

3.3 Final Report (June)

Compare the project to the objective, workplan, and project indicators. Provide (as a link or attachment) the project deliverable or result. Describe the realized or expected impact of the project.

- 1) Survey: We finished evaluating 140 samples. Although close to 50% were symptomatic, only 31 vines were positive, indicating impact of drought condition since 2023.

- 2) *Insect survey: We are nearly done with assessment. Majority of samples did not contain two target sharpshooters; however, one in northern VA included both glassy-winged and broad-headed sharpshooters.*
- 3) *Diagnostics: Our PCR machine was fixed, calibrated, and used exclusively for this research.*
 - *Our in-house protocol was shown to be still an excellent standard in terms of accuracy and reproducibility.*
 - *The commercial PCR kit's results generally agreed with our standard; however, their positive samples did not work, and we had to repeat the PCR several times (i.e., not recommended).*
 - *The commercial non-PCR PD kit provided a reasonable result (28 out 30 positive samples were correctly identified) with a much shorter testing time (~30 min as opposed to more than 2 hours). I believe this will be a great tool for growers and consultants.*
 - *Our new LAMP procedure was successfully developed. We are currently finalizing the protocol which will be available through extension outlets.*
- 4) *Please see the section below*

Takeaways are:

1. *Pierce's Disease is still in the Commonwealth; however, the level of infestation maybe lower than what visual symptoms say. Drought symptoms are similar to that of Pierce's Disease.*
2. *Even though we have small sample sizes, we found the major vectors (two different species of sharpshooters). We need to constantly monitor their populations, especially with warmer winter weather.*
3. *Due to the difficulty of visual diagnostics, it is always best to run a molecular test. We found the in-house protocol we developed in 2013 still performs better than commercially available kits, probably due to better adjustment to local *Xylella fastidiosa* population.*
4. *There is a commercial kit you can purchase, which we found accurate and sensitive enough. It is designed to be used by tech-savvy growers, and you can test a sample within 30 min.*

4.0 COMMUNICATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

4.1 PROPOSAL (February)

Identify the specific audience/s for this project. (1-2 sentences or bullets; Narrative section II.b.)

Grape growers in Virginia and other warm temperate growing regions (USDA Zone 6 or higher) where Pierce's Disease is common.

Summarize how you will share project information or results with this audience. For example, will you submit for publication in a peer reviewed journal? Present at a technical conference? Conduct a training? Post on a site?. (1-3 sentences or bullets; Narrative section II.b.)

The results will be published through:

- Commodity conferences: e.g., the VVA meetings, Eastern Winery Expo
- Extension meetings: e.g., VCE Viticulture Workshops (we typically have three in winter), Monthly Viticulture Meetings, and other opportunities.
- Blog: <https://ext.grapepathology.org>, which is linked to X (@grapepath) and Facebook (GrapePathVATech)
- Extension publication (Pest Management Guide)
- A peer reviewed journal, if possible

4.2 Mid-Year Report (December)—Research and Education Grants Only						
<i>Describe communication with stakeholders to date. Note dates and locations of events or publications, as available/relevant, and cite or estimate the number reached.</i> The importance of Pierce’s Disease Management and project description was discussed at several extension opportunities. Direct contacts - Nita, M. (2025) Disease Management Consideration at bloom, VCE Monthly Virtual Viticulture Meeting: June 2025, online, 6/12/2025, 25 people - Nita, M. (2025) Disease Management Consideration at post-bloom, VCE Monthly Virtual Viticulture Meeting: June 2025, online, 7/14/2025, 25 people - Nita, M. (2025) VT Grape Pathology program updates, Virginia Vineyard Association Summer Technical Meeting, Winchester, VA, 7/31/2025, 85 people - Nita, M. (2025) VT Grape Pathology program overview, AHS AREC Field Day, Winchester, VA, 9/12/2025, 20 people - Nita, M. (2025) VT Grape Pathology program overview, AHS AREC Open House, Winchester, VA, 9/13/2025, 28 people - Nita, M. (2025) VT Grape Pathology program overview, VALOR tour, Winchester, VA, 10/11/2025, 16 people - Nita, M. (2025) VT Grape Pathology program overview, Uruguay grower tour, Winchester, VA, 10/22/2025, 8 people						
4.3 Final Report (June)						
<i>Describe how the technical or material content of the project was or is planned to be shared with stakeholders or beneficiaries, and cite or estimate the number reached. List title, date, type (article, brochure, presentation, or other), purpose, and estimated audience reached. Provide a copy or link if (when) available for inclusion on the virginiawine.org site.</i> Nita, M. (2026) Grape Disease and Insect ID workshop, Oral, Winchester, VA, 3/13/2026, 25 people Nita, M. (2026) Seasonal Grape Disease Management Reminders, Oral, online, 5/7/2025, 25 people Nita, M. (2026) Grape Disease and Insect ID for Extension Agents, Oral, Winchester, VA 6/4/2026, 30 people Nita, M., Ames, J., and McLellan, I. (2026) Grape Disease Management and Research Updates, Oral, Virginia Vineyard Association, July 1st, 2026 (to be presented)						
5.0 BUDGET						

Budget Summary			Mid-Year Research/Education only		Final	
Expense Category	5.1 Request	5.2 Awarded	5.3 Spent	5.4 Remaining	5.5 Spent	5.6 Remaining
Personnel	6,000		0	6000	3,792	2,208
Fringe Benefits	500		0	500	1959	-1,459

Contractual	4,284		4,281	3	4,281	3
Travel	2,903		1,323	1580	1,315	1,587
Supplies	11,430		3,608	7,821	12,057	-627
Equipment (Rental)						
Other						
Total	25,117		9,211	15,906	23,460	16,656