

# SARE: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in...

# Washington

## Project Highlight: *Restoring natural pest management to vineyards*

Aware of the value their customers place on environmental stewardship, many of Washington's vineyards have embraced integrated pest management (IPM) strategies that reduce the role of pesticides. But widespread farmland expansion in central Washington has diminished much of the area's native vegetation, the prime habitat for beneficial insects—insects which prey on pests, and are a key ally in IPM.

To help vineyard owners better appreciate the valuable role played by native ecosystems in low-input IPM, Washington State University researcher David James is using a 2010 SARE grant to evaluate more than 100 native plant species for their effectiveness at attracting beneficial insect populations. After establishing which plant species work best, James plans to conduct research

and demonstration on how those plants can be used on vineyards to cost-effectively reduce pest damage.

In addition, James is tracking how well native plant species attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators, another important ecosystem service native habitats provide.

Washington's wine grape growers, whose industry generated \$610 million in sales in 2006, stand to benefit from this research in many ways. The restoration of native flora and fauna to vineyards not only has the potential to reduce pesticide costs, it can further boost the industry's "green" image and beautify vineyards, providing a more memorable experience for visitors.

For more information on this project, see [www.sare.org/projects](http://www.sare.org/projects), and search for project number SW10-052.

## SARE in Washington

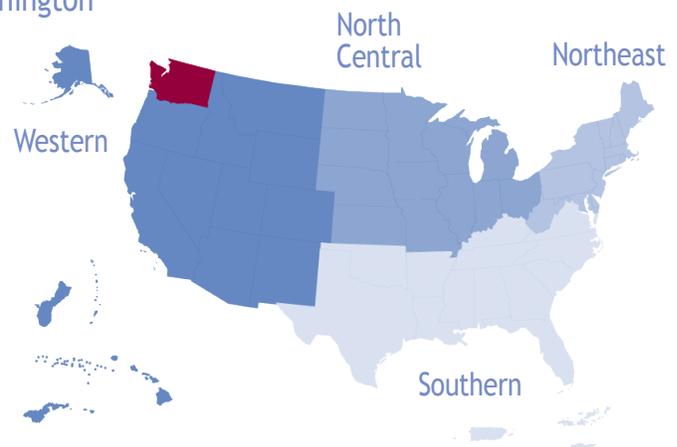
[www.westernsare.org/washington](http://www.westernsare.org/washington)

**\$7.4 million in total funding**

**137 grant projects**

(since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to [www.sare.org/state-summaries](http://www.sare.org/state-summaries)



SARE's four regional programs and outreach office work to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.

## What is SARE?

Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) program has been the go-to USDA grants and outreach program for farmers, ranchers, researchers and educators who want to develop innovations that improve farm profitability, protect water and land, and revitalize communities. To date, SARE has awarded \$245 million for more than 6,100 initiatives.

### SARE is grassroots with far-reaching impact

Four regional councils of expert practitioners set priorities and make grants in every state and island protectorate.

### SARE communicates results

SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.

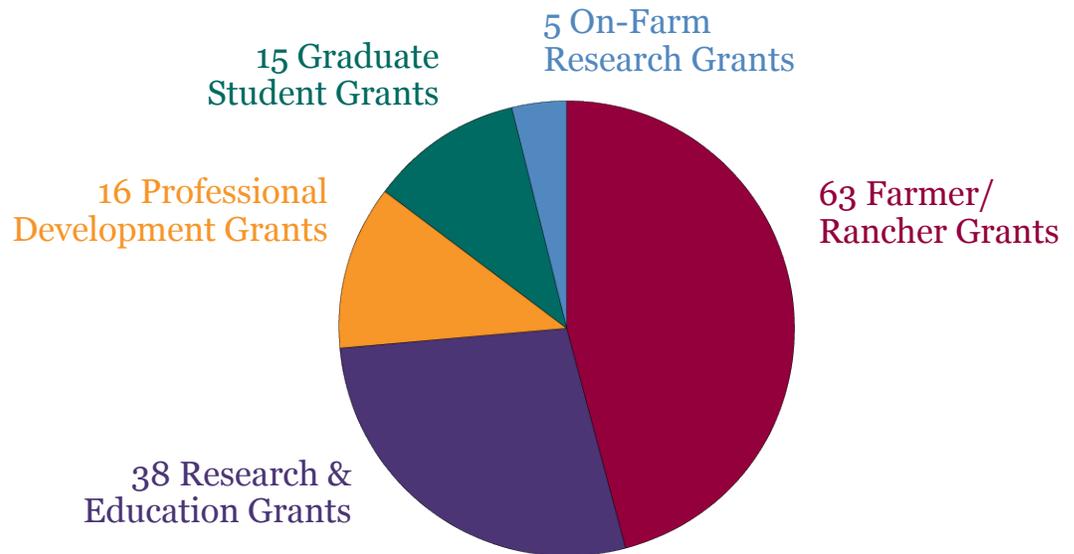


**Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education**

[www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org)

# SARE Grants in Washington

SARE has awarded a total of **137 grants** in Washington since 1988



## SARE's Impact



**53 percent** of producers report using a new production technique after reading a SARE publication.

**79 percent** of producers said they improved soil quality through their SARE project.

**64 percent** of producers said their SARE project helped them achieve higher sales.

## Contact Your SARE State Coordinator

SARE sustainable ag coordinators run state-level educational programs for Extension and other ag professionals, and many help grant applicants and recipients with planning and outreach. Visit [www.westernsare.org/washington](http://www.westernsare.org/washington) to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to  
[www.SARE.org](http://www.SARE.org)