Amount Requested: $500,000

The apple fireblight special research grant seeks to understand and manage the apple fire blight disease by investigating the molecular basis of disease resistance in apples and developing disease resistant apple varieties. Apple is the biggest tree fruit crop in New York, worth more than $2 billion annually. Fire blight is the most damaging disease affecting apple trees and nationally the crop and tree losses and the costs of control measures are over $100 million per year.