

## ***Scientia potentia est* (Knowledge is power)**

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Knowledge *is* power, especially when it comes to trees and tree care. Knowing what trees do and how they do it under various conditions gives us the power to grow trees better and to grow better trees. Without research-based knowledge we're all working in the dark.

Good science helps us build our knowledge in a way that is reliable, trustworthy and *expandable*. For example, a research study of how *Quercus alba* in Appalachia responds to root disturbance first answers the question pertaining directly to white oaks growing in Appalachia. But a well conceived and executed study also gives us a road map to answering similar questions regarding other plant species in other areas.

Expanding the question to apply to different species in sites across the world builds general knowledge. (For example, "tree roots typically die in response to severe disturbance.") Well-designed research allows scientists to build upon its findings. Even studies restricted to a single species, situation or geographic region can ultimately add to our body of knowledge about trees and further our efforts to grow better trees better.

The scientific process is notoriously slow. Building reliable, trustworthy knowledge takes care, perseverance, patience and, of course, money. The TREE Fund receives no government funding, relying instead on the support of the industry it serves to fund its research budget. Our painstaking proposal evaluation process ensures that our funding supports quality research which will contribute to the tree care industry's bank of proven, relevant and applicable knowledge.

I have been asked which regions are most successful in receiving awards from the TREE Fund. Approximately 85% of TREE Fund grant applications originate in the continental United States, and about 88% of the awards are made to US researchers and educators. Similarly, Europe, Africa and Asia (combined) account for about 10% of applications for funding and receive approximately 12% of the awards. On average, 35% of U.S. award recipients are from the Midwest, followed by the South (32%), the Northeast (20%) and the West (13%). These award statistics closely follow the percentage of applications received from these regions.

The fate of a research proposal ultimately hangs on the relevance of the project, the integrity of its process and the quality of the application. Is your project a worthy candidate for funding? You'll never know unless you apply! Learn more and apply online at [www.treefund.org](http://www.treefund.org).