

# NCAC4 2024 Annual Meeting Final Report

## PRE-MEETING OPTIONAL EVENTS

### **Saturday, July 13**

- [Cultivate'24](#) Conference Education Sessions (all day) @ Columbus Convention Center
- [OSU Cultivar Trials](#) with live music, Ohio wines, and other food and beverage. @ Chadwick Arboretum w/ free bussing from Columbus Convention Center – 4:30 – 7:00 PM

### **Sunday, July 14**

- [Cultivate'24](#) Conference Keynote Session & Education Sessions and Trade Show (all day) @ Columbus Convention Center

## NCAC4 MEETING

### ATTENDEES

- Contreras, Ryan            Oregon State University
- Dhingra, Amit             Texas A&M University
- Ervin, Erik                 University of Delaware
- Erwin, John                University of Maryland
- Everhart, Sydney        University of Connecticut
- Gu, Mengmeng            Colorado State University
- Johnson, Paul             Utah State University
- Karcher, Douglas        The Ohio State University
- Layne, Desmond         Auburn University
- Louws, Frank             NC State University
- Mamo, Martha             University of Nebraska
- Montague, Thayne       Texas Tech University
- Moss, Justin               Oklahoma State University
- Nair, Ajay                 Iowa State University
- Prokopy, Linda            Purdue University

- Savin, Mary                      University of Arkansas
- Schuh, Jane                      Kansas State University
- Neil Anderson                      University of Minnesota
- Chris Gunter                      University of Florida

## Monday, July 15

- NCAC4 Meeting Kickoff @ Columbus Convention Center [Cultivate'24](#) Conference Opening Session & Education Sessions (all day) @ Columbus Convention Center
- State of The Industry Keynote Presentation – 8:00 – 9:15 AM
- NCAC4 Meeting – 9:30 – 11:30 AM – Room D183
  - State Reports (See Appendix)\_
  - Multi-state Project Reviews
    - All three of the following projects were continued
    - NCERA221    M    Turfgrass and the Environment
    - NCCC212    M    Small Fruit and Viticulture Research
    - NCERA101    M    Controlled Environment Technology and Use
- Lunch @ [Lemongrass](#) (11:30 – 12:45 PM)
- Cultivate24! Horticulture Department Head Panel Discussion – 1:30 – 3:30 PM – Union Station Ballroom 3
- Explore Cultivate24! On your own

## Tuesday, July 16

- NCAC4 Meeting Day 2 @ the [Controlled Environment Agriculture Research Complex](#), Priva Gathering Room, 8:30 – 1:00 PM
  - Coffee and Refreshments, Social Time, 8:30 – 8:45 AM
  - Welcome, CFAES & Ohio Ag Industry Overview, VP & Dean, Cathann Kress 8:45 – 9:15 AM
  - The Director of Faculty & Staff role & thoughts on mentorship – Sr Assoc Dean, Tracy Kitchel 9:15 – 10:30 AM
  - Waterman – challenges & opportunities with operating a research farm in a major metro area – Assoc Dean Cochran 10:30 – 11:15 AM
  - Tour of the CEARC – Greenhouse Manager, Mike Anderson 11:15 AM - Noon
- Catered Lunch at the CEARC Priva Gathering Space, Noon – 1:00 PM
  - 2025 NCAC4 Host/Location Selection

- ***Texas A&M will host the 2025 NCAC4 meeting with Amit Dhingra serving as incoming chair***
- ***Dates and location TBD***
- NCAC4 Meeting Conclusion

#### **POST-MEETING OPTIONAL EVENT**

***Wednesday, July 17***

- [\*Controlled Environment Agriculture conference\*](#)



07/12/2024

NCAC-4 Annual Report – Auburn University  
Dr. Desmond R. Layne, Head and Professor, Department of Horticulture  
Dept. Website: <https://agriculture.auburn.edu/research/hort/>

### **Total Enrollment**

Graduate Students (**34**) – 20 M.S., 13 Ph.D., 1 M.Ag. (this is a record high – at least in the last 10 years)

Undergraduate Students (145 total: HORT - **83**; AGSCI - **62**)

Undergraduate HORT Concentration Areas (3 students haven't chosen their concentration yet)

1. Fruit and Vegetable Production = 20
2. Landscape Horticulture = 20
3. Nursery & Greenhouse Science = 35
4. Pre-Landscape Architecture = 5

- New 2+2 Articulation Agreement established with Wallace-Hanceville Community College for both HORT and AGSCI programs
- Just had M.Ag. (fully online) degree approved and will begin offering in Fall 2024 – target audience is industry professionals seeking career advancement
- This summer, we requested that the university enrollment office *increase* the number of HORT and AGSCI students admitted to the department. At this point, we feel that we could easily handle **120** HORT and **100** AGSCI majors.

### **Faculty**

Total (**18**) – 1 Lecturer, 8 Asst. Prof., 5 Assoc. Prof., 4 Full Prof. – two are non-tenure track

Newest Hire: Dr. Matt Wilson, Horticulture Lecturer (100% teaching, Aug. 1, 2024 start)

Open Position: Ornamental Horticulturist – Asst. Prof. (9-month, 60% Research/40% Teaching)

Future Request - (won't know if approved until August) – Weed Specialist for horticultural crop systems (50% Extension/50% Research)

**Transformation Garden Update:** actively fundraising for 16-acre on-campus teaching garden; site design completed; site grading and infrastructure project completed; new campus road project completed; Raised ~\$4M to date; currently installing taps for irrigation to each of the future garden plots; Contracting with landscape architect to put together construction documents for the design to build a 1-acre Children's Garden at south end of the property near the Gogue Center. This construction project is being funded by a generous gift from Bonnie Plants Foundation with groundbreaking anticipated in Jan. 2025; also completed ~\$230K greenhouse renovation project at the Paterson Greenhouse Complex.

Link to AUTG Promotion Video: <https://youtu.be/Wrh3cTNOOrFs?si=yvz57tEsrxH5EV4>

**FoodU (FULL = Food University Living Laboratory) Update:** on-going partnership with AU Campus Dining, Ithaka Hospitality Partners, Tony and Libba Rane Culinary Sciences Center, Laurel Hotel, 1856 Culinary Restaurant and Ariccia Cucina Restaurant at the Auburn Hotel and Conference Center continued to thrive; new student leadership and additions to rooftop garden; soon to add 4 new shipping container vertical farms (Amplified Ag.) to the Transformation Garden property this year; working on plans for state-of-the-art 1-acre production/research greenhouse in partnership with industry. Lots of great press and NCAA PSA commercial with >32M views

**Ag Alumni Mentoring Program** – highlights - >100 mentor/mentee relationships; 15 years running; huge success

**Dedicated HORT Career Fair** – scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 2 during 1-4 pm at the Alumni Center; The general Agriculture Fair will take place the following day on Thursday, October 3. To help prepare students for the career fairs, we have a staff career strategist who will help coach students including a resume blitz and a career closet takeover event.

**Funchess Hall Replacement - AG-STEM Building Update:**

Link: <https://www.auburn.edu/administration/facilities/webapps/projects/profile.php?proj=20-378>

**2023-2024 was departmental record year for peer-reviewed publications, awards, competitive grants funded and number of graduate students in the program.**

July 26, 2024

NCAC-4 Annual Report – University of Arkansas; Department of Horticulture  
Submitted by Mary Savin - Head

Department website: <https://horticulture.uark.edu/>

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: <https://bumperscollege.uark.edu/>

**University of Arkansas:** The flagship institution in Arkansas for the land grant system is the University of Arkansas located in Fayetteville. There was a record number of students who enrolled in the fall for 2023-2024 with a total of 32,140 students. Within that enrollment total, 27,472 were undergraduates, 4272 were graduates, and 396 were Law School students.

**Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences and University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture:** The Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences (DBCAFLS) at the University of Arkansas hosts 14 majors and 25 minors across agricultural and human environmental sciences and is the college “for students passionate about innovative science, community development and global impact”. According to the spring 2024 semester data, DBCAFLS had a student enrollment of approximately 2,073 undergraduate students and 299 graduate students. Dean Jeff Edwards began his appointment on January 1, 2024. Dr. John Anderson started as senior associate vice president-extension for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture on January 2, 2024. Both of those individuals, join Dr. Jean-Francois Meullenet, senior associate vice president-agriculture research working with Dr. Deacue Fields, vice president-agriculture for the University of Arkansas System in leading the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

#### **Department of Horticulture:**

**Faculty:** The department comprises three Full professors, five Associate professors, six Assistant professors, and three instructors. The previous department head, Wayne Mackay, retired in March 2024 and the new department head, Mary Savin, began in April 2024.

#### **Academic Programs & Enrollment**

Four emphasis areas: Sustainable Horticulture, Landscape and Ornamentals, Production, and Turfgrass Science and three minors: Horticulture, Landscape Horticulture, and Turf Management

Graduate Program(s)

Horticulture (MS) – seven students; Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences - Horticulture (PhD) – five students; Horticulture students in the Cell and Molecular Biology program (PhD) - two

Undergraduate Program(s): (total 79)

Horticulture, Landscape, and Turf Sciences (BS) – 79 students

#### **Significant Faculty News and Awards in 2024:**

- New Nectarine released by Margaret Worthington and the Arkansas Fruit Breeding Program; Ozark Mango™ is seventh nectarine introduced by Arkansas Fruit Breeding Program

- The annual fruit pruning workshop was held on March 6, 2024 at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture (UADA) Fruit Research Station, Clarksville, Arkansas.
- High tunnel field days have been held in various locations around Arkansas, including one on March 26, 2024 at the Southwest Research and Extension Center in Hope, Arkansas.
- High tunnel strawberry production training was held with NRCS on March 28, 2024 in Marshall Arkansas
- A field tour and strawberry taste test was held at the Vegetable Research Station in Alma, Arkansas on May 2, 2024
- On June 12, 2024 the annual tour of blackberry research trials and the breeding program occurred at the UADA Fruit Research Station in Clarksville, Arkansas. The Arkansas Governor's office declared June "Blackberry month".
- The Horticulture field day took place at the Southwest Research and Extension Center in Hope, Arkansas. See the following link for the story.  
[https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9636722/us-ar-fruits-vegetables-high-tunnels-ornamentals-the-highlights-of-horticulture-field-day/?utm\\_medium=email](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9636722/us-ar-fruits-vegetables-high-tunnels-ornamentals-the-highlights-of-horticulture-field-day/?utm_medium=email)
- Dr. Ryan Dickson received the Arkansas Experiment Station Early Career Recognition of Professional Excellence Awards (RoPE) Award in 2024;  
<https://aaes.uada.edu/news/2024-rope-awards/>
- Curt Rom has been appointed ASHS Associate Director for Engagement and Outreach

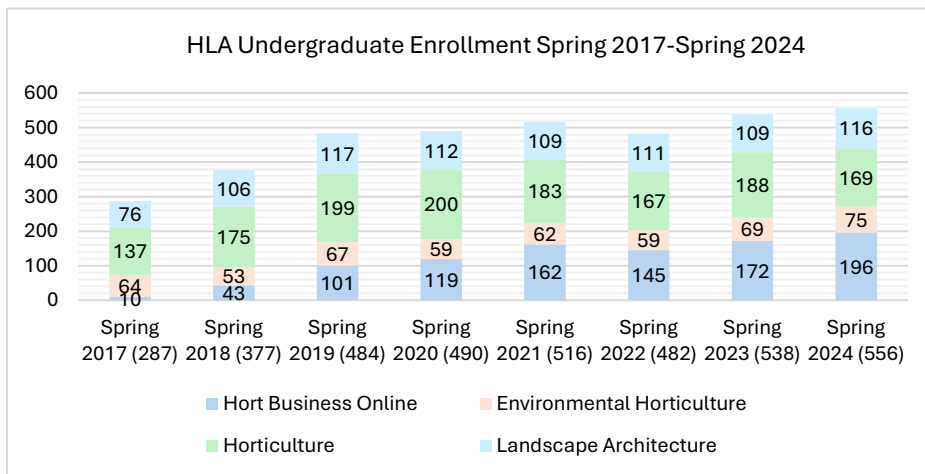
2024 NCAC-4 Annual Report -Colorado State University  
 Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture  
 Mengmeng Gu Professor and Department Head

The Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture (HLA) sits at the intersection of design, creativity, health and the natural world. We take pride in challenging our students to understand the complexities of human and community health and how to create thriving natural landscapes. Our programs ensure we get outside, get our hands dirty, and learn by doing.

**Department Mission**

Our mission is to discover, apply and disseminate knowledge and technology and to develop leaders in horticulture and landscape architecture. Our focus is to solve problems for people, agriculture, and the environment, and to improve policymaking and public education while developing a workplace conducive to scholarship and creativity fostered by teamwork, and individual diversity.

**1. Undergraduate Education**



HLA has seen a steady increase in enrollment since Spring 2017, with the exception of a small dip in Spring 2022. HLA offers four disciplinary majors (Environmental Horticulture, Horticulture, Horticulture Business-Online, and Landscape Architecture (LA)), and three minors

(Horticulture, Environmental Horticulture and Organic Agriculture).

Our faculty offer dual enrollment to high school students in Denver and Trinidad Public School Districts, and actively engage with MSU-Denver and Adam State University in Alamosa to recruit rural and underrepresented students. Since Fall 2023, we’ve been enrolling Ram Scholars in our classes.

Majors:

1-Environmental Horticulture

- Four concentrations---Landscape Design and Contracting, Nursery and Landscape Management, Turf Management and Environmental Horticulture.
- The Landscape Design and Contracting Concentration is one of only seven fully accredited 4-year programs in the nation through the National Association of Landscape Professionals.

2-Horticulture



- Four concentrations: Controlled Environment Horticulture, Horticultural Business Management, Horticultural Science, & Horticultural Food Crops.
- Controlled Environment Horticulture (which recently replaced the Floriculture concentration) is the fastest growing concentration.

### 3-Horticulture Business (Online)

- The largest and fastest growing HLA major.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest horticulture online major in the U.S., only about 10 students less than Oregon State University's online program.

### 4-Landscape Architecture

- Our B.S. in LA program is the only one accredited by Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board in Colorado.

Minors and 2<sup>nd</sup> majors: We have a total of 6 2<sup>nd</sup> majors and 66 minors in HLA.

### **High Impact Student Experiences**

LA Days is an annual spring lecture series (weekly in April) hosted by our LA Program and the CSU Student Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Students and faculty engage in an exploration of contemporary landscape architecture practice with renowned professionals to learn how landscape architects strengthen communities and improve human and environmental health.

Every year, students in Landscape Design and Contracting Concentration participate in the National Collegiate Landscape Competition (NCLC), a 3-day powerhouse event which brings together the top landscape and horticulture students from 50+ institutions, top industry companies and dozens of the biggest industry manufacturers and suppliers. We placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2024 NCLC hosted by BYU (Provo, UT) and will host the 2025 NCLC during spring break on the CSU campus.

Study abroad programs--- LAND 455 - Travel Abroad-European Landscape Architecture currently gives participants direct exposure to the rich history of landscape design in Italy and France. Students will visit many important landscape architectural precedents and pursue research on various topics including land planning, urban design, community design and insightful garden design for public and private places. In addition, a similar course is under development to explore landscape architecture in East Asia.

HLA faculty are very active serving as Faculty-In-Residence for the Semester at Sea (Bousselot, Spring 2024 and Catalano, Fall 2024) and the CAS New Zealand study abroad program at Lincoln University (Uchanski, Spring 2025).

### **Student Clubs**

Hort Club

Phi Alpha Xi (Horticulture Honor Society)

Student Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (SCASLA)

Students of Landscape Design and Contracting (SOLDAC)

## **2. Graduate Education**

HLA offers Horticulture M.S. and Ph.D. Plan A programs, Horticulture and Human Health M.S. Plan B program (Plan C is under development) and two graduate certificates (Urban Agriculture

and Horticulture and Human Health). The HLA Graduate Student Council represents and advocates for graduate students at departmental, college and university levels.

Graduate Program	Enrolled Fall 2024
Horticulture MS.	26
Horticulture Ph.D.	18
Hort and Human Health MS. (Online)	28
Urban Agriculture Certificate (Online)	4
Hort and Human Health Certificate (Online)	4

### 3. Research and Extension/Outreach Highlights

Main research areas in HLA include landscape horticulture, landscape establishment, horticulture crop production and postharvest physiology, viticulture, produce safety, landscape architecture, arboriculture, agricultural chemistry, agrivoltaics, green roofs, turfgrass physiology, ecology, and management, water relations of plants and soils, horticulture and human health, potato breeding and genetics, plant root biology, and controlled environment horticulture. Faculty view plant biotechnology as the next priority area.

Four HLA faculty are affiliated with Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Program and four with Graduate Degree Program in Ecology.

Extension responsibility: We have the last one traditional Extension Specialist in HLA. Twelve faculty members have 10-40% extension appointment. We also work closely with Extension Horticulture faculty to extend our outreach in counties across the state of Colorado. All HLA faculty, irrespective of having extension appointments or not, engage with a wide range of stakeholders, serving on boards and committees and participating in stakeholder events in Colorado, and national and international stages.

#### Major stakeholder groups in Colorado:

Colorado Potato Administrative Committee (CPAC)  
 Colorado Certified Potato Growers Association (CCPGA)  
 Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association (CNGA)  
 American Society of Landscape Architects- Colorado Chapter (ASLA-CO)  
 International Society of Arborists- Rocky Mountain Chapter (ISA-RMC)  
 Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (CFVGA)  
 Western Colorado Horticultural Society (WCHS)  
 Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado (ALCC)  
 Colorado Wine Industry Development Board (CWIDB)  
 Colorado Association for Viticulture and Enology (CAVE)  
 Colorado Arborists and Lawn Care Professionals (CALCP)  
 Garden Centers of Colorado (GCC)  
 Rocky Mountain Sod Growers Association (RMSGA)  
 Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association (RMRTA)  
 Colorado Sports Field Management Association (CSFMA)  
 Colorado Department of Agriculture Division of Plant Industry (CDA-DPI)  
 Plant Select

Major outreach events (events in *italics* are organized by HLA) in Colorado:

January—VinCo/WCHS Conference, ProGreen Expo.

February—Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference, Colorado Garden & Home Show, CFVGA Conference, CO Ag Forum, *HLA Professional Mixer*.

March—*NCLC, Viticulture and Pomology workshops*.

April—Arbor Valley Networkshop, *Produce Safety Workshop, LA Days, Viticulture and Pomology workshops*.

May—*Trees in the West Conference*.

June—Plant Select Conference, *Produce Safety Workshop, Viticulture and Pomology workshops, Twilight Garden Series*.

July—CNGA Member BBQ, *Twilight Garden Series*.

August—CNGA Member BBQ, Colorado Destination Days (DBG, Gulley, Blooma Farms / Rocky Mountain Liners, Welby Gardens and Chatfield Farms), *Produce Safety Workshop, Trial Gardens Evaluation Days (including Public Evaluation Day and Industry Evaluation and Field Day), Potato Field Day, Viticulture and Pomology workshops, Twilight Garden Series*.

September—CNGA Member BBQ, *'Come to the Table', ARDEC-South Field Day, Merlyn Paulson Lecture Series, Ag Week Events*.

October—CNGA Member BBQ, Women in Hort Luncheon.

December---ASLA-CO Holiday Party, *RMRTA Turf Conference, Potato Breeding Open House*.

Communications: Departmental, college and university events and news are communicated through LinkedIn pages (Department, LDC Program and SCASLA pages) and regular department newsletters 'Plants, Places, and People' to both internal and external audiences.

## **Horticultural Sciences**

### **University of Florida**

Updates for NCAC4 Meeting

(July 15-16, Columbus, OH)

Prepared by Chris Gunter, Chair

- Department is healthy with 30 on-campus and 26 off-campus faculty at 6 REC's across the state.
- 6 newly promoted Associate Professors with Tenure (Drs. Sandoya, Rossi, Alferez, Kanissery, Kim, and Resende)
- Also successfully navigated the first round the new Post Tenure Review Process mandated by the state legislature.
- Dr. Andrew Hanson was named to the National Academy of Sciences
- Dr. Marcio Resende named to Fruit and Vegetable Industry's 40 under 40
- Dr. Curt Hannah was awarded the Rollins A. Emerson Lifetime Maize Genetics Award for 2024
- Dr. Patricio Munoz was named the Endowed Horticulture Crop Breeding Professor
- Added a new Associate Chair role - Covering Teaching
- Faculty additions
  - New Tomato Breeder (Dr. Jessica Chitwood-Brown, joins our tomato genomics faculty (Dr. Anuj Sharma), to advance that crop
  - New Tropical Fruit Breeder will be starting soon at TREC (Dr. Jugpreet Singh)
  - New Vegetable Production Specialist at NFREC (Dr. Ioannis Karapanos)
- New Crop Transformation Center initiative to focus on citrus greening and advanced transformation solutions.
  - Adding 2 new faculty and new laboratory and controlled environment space

**NCAC4 2024**  
**Iowa State University**  
**Department of Horticulture**

**Anticipated Undergraduate Enrollment Fall 2024**

Horticulture - 140

Global Resource Systems - 45

**Graduate Enrollment Fall 2024**

MS Students - 13

PhD Students - 7

**Graduate Programs our faculty are involved with:**

Interdepartmental Plant Biology

SUSAG

Interdepartmental Genetics

Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology

Seed Technology and Business

**Master's graduate research assistantship**

Salary – \$27,020

Benefits - \$4025

Tuition: Faculty required to pay 75% tuition; remaining 25% by student

**PhD graduate research assistantship**

Salary - \$28,644

Benefits - \$4268

Tuition – Faculty to pay 100% tuition.

**Highlights**

**Global resource systems (GRS)**

The department is in the process of fully integrating the GRS program into horticulture. Global Resource Systems studies the way the world uses its limited resources to create sustainable systems. By integrating social, agricultural and natural sciences, GRS courses explore how to efficiently use the world's resources on a global scale. GRS classes are collaborative in nature and allow students from a variety of disciplines to explore some of the world's most pressing issues, sparking discussions and solutions.

**Partnerships with College of Engineering**

The department is focusing on interdisciplinary projects by engaging with researchers in the college of engineering. There are projects that are ongoing that explore artificial intelligence, robotics, sensors, and agrivoltaics.

**New hires and retirements**

Dr. Nick Christians, turfgrass specialist, retired after more than forty years of service. We were able to hire his former student Dr. Quincy Law to fill that position. A new vegetable crop specialist position will soon be advertised.

**Challenges**

The college is going through some budget headwinds. There has been cuts in the past and more cuts could be coming. There are positions that have been left un-filled and it is getting difficult to hire new faculty.

# University of Maryland Report

Plant Science and Landscape Architecture (PSLA; [www.psla.umd.edu](http://www.psla.umd.edu))

July 17, 2024

PSLA: Horticulture, Agronomy, Turfgrass, Agroecology, Food safety, Plant Biology, Landscape Architecture, Ag Extension and Education (new), Plant Pathology and Fermentation Science (new; with NFSC).

<u>University</u>	<u>Department</u>
Founded 1856	2007 (became Chair in 2020)
Academic Programs: 309	4 (5 specializations), 3 Graduate
Acceptance rate 44%	35%
Undergrads: 30,594	157 students
Graduate: 10,219	66 students
Faculty and staff: 14,922	32 faculty (26 TTK, 6 PTK, 13 Instructors) 20 Postdocs and 11 staff
Budget: \$2.77 Billion (28% from state)	\$11.42 million operating/year (\$5.86 million – state; \$479k – federal)
Research: \$1.2 billion (#11 nationally)	\$6.76 million in 2023 (\$5.08 Research expenditures; \$5.53 million in 2024 thus far) \$1.6 million in Foundation Accounts

## Personal Goals for the Department (UMD administrators are limited to 10 years):

- Increase the impact of our research to our disciplines
- Develop premier undergraduate programs nationally in selected majors centered around thematic areas that are outcome-based (jobs; Thank you UNE).
- Develop new, long-term revenue streams to allow for seed funding of future cutting edge research activities as well as increased new plant variety development.
- Improve the department culture to improve family-work life balance and greater interdisciplinary teamwork.
- Increase cross-agency collaboration between UMD and nearby federal agencies such as USDA, NOAA, APHIS, FAD, NSF, NIH, NASA.
- Increase faculty number, state and federal funding and facilities.

## Noteworthy Events in 2023-2024

- State budget was reduced by \$76,000, grant revenue increased \$150,000, Hatch revenue increased \$90,000, Faculty received a 3% COA + 2.25% Merit pay increase (total of 29.75% over 4 years; some faculty exceeded 40% pay increase).
- Increased large grant applications – 1 >\$25 million each year.
- Published 99 refereed scientific journal articles, 1 book, 5 book chapters, 16 conference proceedings and 68 extension publications in 2023. 1 Nature, 2 Nature: Communications, 2 Nature: Genetics, 1 Plant Physiology, 1 Frontiers in Plant Science, etc.

- Released 3 wheat, 2 barley and 1 rye varieties (first releases in 20 years), anticipate 6 additional in 2025.
- Private giving increased to \$450,000 in 2023
- Tenured 2 faculty.
- Hired 3 faculty in 2023: vegetable molecular genomics, landscape architecture, agriculture extension and education
- Three current searches: Abiotic stress biologist, invasive species biologist, Plant diagnostic lab director.
- New collaborative graduate student program initiated in Africa.
- We will be searching for a new Dean in 2024/2025.

### Lessons Learned

- We have been writing faculty position descriptions too tight!
- Our business office is a 'bottleneck'
- Small things matter, coffeemakers, printers, chairs/tables, food, happy hours, congratulations, celebrating our achievements!
- New Hatch resources are offsetting state dollars – Money has been left on the table!
- Put vehicles on startups! At UMD - we pay 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of costs.
- Large scale change must include a legislative effort – through commodity groups, as well as a champion in the legislature.

### Future Efforts

- Legislative effort – Model proposed - \$5 million allocation to PSLA and Animal Science. \$2 million to PSLA, \$2 million to ANSC, and \$1 million annually to Maryland Experiment Station. Support 10 new faculty in PSLA, 10 new faculty in ANSC and supports fringe (OSU Model) on grad student salaries in applied agriculture.
- Will add an All-Day Research symposium (Thank you Purdue)
- New allocation of \$5,000 annually for undergraduate and \$5,000 annually for graduate student travel support to conferences (Thank you Minnesota)
- Reorganization of majors and programs organized around themes and anticipated occupations – this will include name changes (UNE).
- Develop a New Crop Development center aimed at broader royalty stream generation across crops – especially using new technologies (Thank you UFL).
- Organize a Postdoc club and engage them in seminars
- Hope to initiate collaborative teaching activities (VTECH and UDE).
- Hope to initiate 2 new faculty searches in 2024: Flowering Physiology/Biology – Floriculture; Tree Physiology/Biology – Nursery Production.



# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Crookston • Duluth • Morris • Rochester • Twin Cities

**Department of Horticultural Science**  
College of Food, Agricultural and  
Natural Resource Sciences

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<http://horticulture.umn.edu>

## NCAC4 Annual Report – University of Minnesota

Dr. Neil O. Anderson, Interim Head & Professor, Department of Horticultural Science

Department website: <https://horticulture.umn.edu/>

College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resources Sciences (CFANS) website: <https://cfans.umn.edu/>

### **The University.**

The University of Minnesota, founded in 1851 as Land Grant University (R1), has 68366 students enrolled. In the past 1.5 years, the previous President left, who was replaced with a 1-year Interim President, followed by the hiring of a new President, Dr. Rebecca Cunningham.

### **The Department.**

The Department of Horticultural Science was founded in 1888 and has a 136-year-long history of plant breeding programs and physiology research on cold tolerance (winter hardiness). Our weekly seminar series is the oldest one in the country and the world at 111 years of sharing research, teaching, and extension/outreach excellence.

There are 17 faculty members (tenure-track) in the department with three full-time administrative and support staff. We had one faculty retirement this past year and two will occur in this next fiscal year; 2/3 of the positions have been or will be replaced. The department has 5 PostDoctoral Research Associates, including one new Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP) scholar who will fill a faculty position at the end of their 2-year PPFP.

### **Student Enrollment & Programs**

#### **2 Undergraduate Majors (interdisciplinary): 145 students**

- **Plant Science** (<https://horticulture.umn.edu/plant-science>): **123 students**
  - **Tracks of study:** Nursery & floriculture, plant breeding, horticultural production, sustainable plant health, turfgrass science, agroecology, agronomy production; 4+1: BS/MS plant breeding
  - Number of students in each track:
    - Nursery and Floriculture : 18
    - Horticultural Production : 14
    - Sustainable Plant Health : 10
    - Plant Breeding : 19
    - Agronomy Production : 6
    - Agroecology : 18
    - Turfgrass : 2
  - Internships: required
- **Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems** (<https://horticulture.umn.edu/sustainable-agriculture-food-systems>): **22 students**



- Tracks of Study: Sustainable food production, food marketing and supply chains, individualized studies
- Number of students in each track:
  - Organic and Local Food Production : 7
  - Agroecology : 2
  - Consumers and Markets : 5
  - Individualized : 8
- Internships: required

#### 4 Undergraduate Minors (interdisciplinary): 63 students

- Horticulture Minor (<https://horticulture.umn.edu/horticulture-minor>): 31 students
  - Interdisciplinary; university-wide appeal
  - 14 credits; 1 required course
  - Completely online
- Food Systems Minor (<https://horticulture.umn.edu/food-systems-minor>): 10 students
  - Interdisciplinary; university-wide appeal
  - 15 credits; 2 required courses
- Agronomy Minor (<https://agronomy.cfans.umn.edu/agronomy-minor>): 7 students
  - *Interdisciplinary; university-wide appeal*
  - *Completely online or in-person*
  - 17 credits, including Agronomy, Soil Science
- Sustainable Agriculture Minor (<https://cape.umn.edu/majors/sustainable-agriculture>): 15 students
  - *Interdisciplinary; university-wide appeal*
  - 15 credits

#### Graduate Studies (college-, university-wide programs): 49 students (16-M.S., 16-Ph.D.; 17-MPS)

- Applied Economics (4)
- Applied Plant Sciences (21)
- Bioinformatics & Computational Biology (0)
- Conservation Biology (0)
- Ecology, Evolution, & Behavior (0)
- Land & Atmospheric Science (1)
- Masters of Professional Studies (17)
- Plant Microbial Biology (4)

In my 1.5 years as Interim Head, I've instituted several things for community building and recapturing our departmental vitality. These included monthly lunch meetings with graduate students, monthly lunch meetings with the PostDocs, and a joint department head lunch (co-hosted with Dr. Gary Muehlbauer, Interim Head, Dept. of Agronomy & Plant Genetics) 1x/semester with graduate students in the Applied Plant Sciences Graduate Program. The monthly lunches are a great opportunity for postdocs and graduate students to connect with the department head in a laid-back setting. These meetings have helped enhance building cohorts as well as provide opportunities for problem-solving and career development. Likewise, this has been an opportunity for graduate students to discuss their concerns about the impact unionization will have. We have held two department-wide off site retreats to focus on a topic of interest each year identified by the Departmental Consultative Committee. A tangible outcome each year have been launched as new initiatives, such as the Green Collar Scholar™ program (*Instagram: umnhorticulture*).

As work/life balance is important to all, we continue to work on **building community** via in-person events (e.g. seminars and coffee hours) and hybrid opportunities (e.g. seminars). Employee **recruitment and retention** are a high priority. **Support Grant Writing** - this past year we launched a Grant Proposal Review Committee to support newer faculty writing and submitting grant proposals. Faculty can submit proposals to be read by a volunteer group of faculty members. We have tied some professional development money to those who submit and read. This program helped review two funded USDA SCRI projects totaling ~\$14M.

In conjunction with the Department of Agronomy & Plant Genetics, we continued the tradition of co-hosting the Applied Plant Sciences Graduate Program weekly seminar series. The series rotates each semester between Alderman and Borlaug Halls to encourage better faculty and graduate student attendance. In addition to the seminars, we've hosted 7-10 coffee "social" hours and events throughout the past year, some highlights included: a) A CBS Conservatory Coffee Hour this allowed students, staff, and faculty access to the CBS Conservatory and to examine the living collections to formulate ways in which the germplasm could be utilized in classes and research. The linkage between the Conservatory and the Department remain strong, since the Director was a graduate of our department. At least one or more faculty members have contributed germplasm from plant collection trips to the permanent collections. B) AD Coffee Hour - This was just for the administrative (AD) office staff from departments in the college, this was an opportunity for those with similar responsibilities to meet one another and share resources and best practices. C) Poetry readings, in coordination with National Poetry Month, April 2022 & 2023, were held during coffee hour. Faculty, staff, and students brought a favorite poem to read out loud and discuss. Many poems focused on plant-related topics.

Undergraduate Welcome Back Event - An event for undergraduates in our majors to connect outside of classes and meet with advisors, faculty mentors, major coordinators, and support staff.

Our weekly newsletter, "**The Twig**", has a high circulation within and outside the department which provides information on upcoming seminars, grant opportunities, job position announcements, recent publications, and other informatory data for alumni, emeriti professors, and retired staff. The periodic publication, "**The Leaflet**", focuses articles on new discoveries and learning opportunities in the department.

Departmental committee membership and participation remains strong resulting in a full-schedule for weekly seminars, a stream-lined application process for the Outstanding Alumni Award & Kermit Olson lectureship. Successful faculty nominations for awards which resulted in the following during 2023: Eric Watkins (CSSA Fellow; 2023 TOCA (Turf & Ornamental Communicators Association) Environmental Communicator of the Year Award); Neil Anderson (CFANS Distinguished Teaching Award: Undergraduate Faculty, Tenured); Jim Luby (Lifetime Achievement Award from National Association of Plant Breeders, NAPB); Julie Grossman (Engaged Campus Award for Emerging Innovation; President's Civic Engagement Leadership Award, CFANS Pioneering and Innovation Award); James Luby, David Bedford, Emily Evans, Jeff Thompson (University of Minnesota Communicators Forum Gold Award, Writing). A graduate student, Emily Moore, won 2nd place in the American Society for Horticultural Science's 2023 Ornamental Plant Breeding Graduate Student Oral Competition.

With new leadership, we have increased cooperation between the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum (MLA) and the department, due to regular meetings between Andrew Gapinski and Neil Anderson. This is creating

stream-lined interactions and cross-input between the organizations to enhance faculty and staff interactions, clarify program overlaps and develop common interest areas for recruiting and donor development, increased integration of Extension Educators with Extension Specialists, and public awareness. We wrote a policy statement on “Conducting Research at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum” to share with Andrew Gapinski so he is aware of the complexities faculty face when working at the MLA and the Horticultural Research Center.

**2024 NCAC4 State Annual Report**  
**Department of Agronomy and Horticulture – University of Nebraska- Lincoln**  
<https://agronomy.unl.edu/>

The department of Agronomy and Horticulture has a long-standing legacy and leadership in mission areas of teaching, research, and extension. Disciplinary areas include Crop Physiology and Production, Soil and Water Sciences, Range and Forage, Horticulture, Weed Science, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Turf Science and Management, and Landscape Design and Management. Faculty work is achieved through collaborations across disciplines, and in partnership with internal and external as bridge to effective interdisciplinary teaching, research, and extension. Our mission and core goals capture the urgency of the challenges in agriculture (climate extremes, biotic and abiotic stresses, water quality and quantity, food and nutrition security, resource use efficiency), prepare our students to be exceptionally skilled and competent professionals, and meet the workforce needs..

**NU System Level** – Dr. Jeff Gold appointed as NU President after a national search. Gold served as UNMC Chancellor

**Budget Situation**

- BoR tuition increase, 3.5%
- ~\$12M in permanent spending reductions planned across NU campuses
- Process underway to enter the AAU
  - Metrics being reviewed

**UNL Level**

UNL New Chancellor Rodney Bennett joined in August 2023.

**IANR-CASNR Level**

- Reduction in admin capacity – Ron Yoder senior Associate VC of IANR position eliminated
- New Dep Heads: Stats, Animal Science, School of Natural Resources, Food Science and Technology, Ag Economics; Mamo renewed to stay on as dep head
- CASNR Pathway coordinators work with HS teachers and academic units
- Some stats for CASNR
  - Welcomed the second-largest incoming class in college history, with 640 first-time freshmen and transfers.
  - 26 bachelor’s, 15 master’s, and 12 doctoral programs, as well as a DVM in partnership with Iowa State University.
  - Over 3,300 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students enrolled in degree programs offered by CASNR academic units.
  - CASNR students are from 88 of Nebraska’s 93 counties, as well as 45 states and over 60 countries.
- Over 800 degrees awarded in 2023, setting new records for the number of degrees over the past 5 years.
- First-time freshmen retention – 85.4%
- First-time freshmen retention for URM students – black, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, and American Indian – increased 16 percentage points between 2022 and 2023. The 4-year graduate rate for URM students increased 20 percentage points between 2019 and 2023. The 6-year graduate rate is the highest on record for URM, Pell-Eligible, and First Generation students.

	Enrollment	Retention	Degrees Conferred 2023
UNL	23,615 (4,013 Graduate, 18,959 Undergraduate)	84.3%	Over 5,300
CASNR	3312	85.4%	Over 800

## Department Level

### People

- 76 Faculty – ~37 FTE research, 14 FTE extension, 19 FTE teaching, 3 FTE other
  - 48 Tenure Track
  - 28 Non-tenure Track
  - New faculty –
    - Brian Rice Plant Quantitative Genetics;
    - Milos Zaric Spray Technologist at West Central Research and Extension Center
  - 2 new NTT being recruited for NWAUFU teaching in China – fall and spring semesters
- Retirement
  - Roch Gaussoin – Turf Science and Management - October 2024
  - Don Lee – Genetics, June 2025
  - Tom Clemente – Plant Core Transformation Director, June 2025
- Resignation
  - Precision Ag Laila Puntel – Nov 2023
- Promotion, Professorships, and other awards
  - Promotion and/or Tenure - Michael Kaiser; Jeff Mower; Amanda Easterly; Ming Guo
  - Corn Board Presidential Chair: James Schnable
  - Numerous university and national awards – graduate students and faculty

### Programs and Activities Highlights in annual newsletter - <https://agronomy.unl.edu/annual-newsletter>

- 3 degree programs: Agronomy, Plant and Landscape Systems, Plant Biology
- MSc, MS online, PhD, Complex Biosystems Interdisciplinary PhD

	Enrollment	Retention	Degrees Conferred 2023
Agronomy and Horticulture	182 U, 116 G (Sp '24)	Variable	~90

- ~50 new students at 3+1 UNL-NWAUFU program began fall 2023 in China – expect first co-hort in fall 2026 – welcomed the students at opening ceremony in September 2023
- Academic Program Review - October 2023
- Budget reduction fall 2023 - \$400K
- The 2023-2024 research expenditures, proposals, and awards were \$28.1M, \$57.9M, and \$19.2M, respectively
- Creating connections
  - In addition to organized formal events, began monthly informal coffee social – hosted by different groups
  - Integrated postdocs and advanced PhD in weekly departmental seminar
- Plans
  - Working on strategic directions – facilitated discussions at AY24-25 kickoff in August
  - Core position proposals being developed
  - Hosting Seed Your Future Executive Board in September
  - Lincoln Northeast HS partnership and strengthening our 2+2 partnerships
  - Recruitment specialist focused on partnerships and alum relations
  - Alum survey underway

July 18, 2024

NCAC-4 Annual Report -NC State University; Dept Horticultural Science  
Submitted by Frank J. Louws - Head  
Department website: <https://cals.ncsu.edu/horticultural-science/>  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: <https://cals.ncsu.edu/>

**NC State University:** NC State University is based in Raleigh, North Carolina, about halfway down the East Coast of the United States. Since 1887, we've strived to offer world-class teaching and research. As per the enrollment data for 2023-2024, a total of 37,314 students were at North Carolina State University, out of which 27,323 were undergraduates and 9,991 were graduates.

**College of Agriculture and Life Science:** The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at NC State University is renowned for its comprehensive approach to agricultural sciences, biological sciences, and life sciences education. It emphasizes hands-on learning, cutting-edge research, and community engagement to address global challenges in agriculture, food, natural resources, and human health. As of the latest available data, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at NC State University has a student enrollment of approximately 3,500 undergraduate students and over 1,000 graduate students.

Dean Garey Fox commenced August 2023 with a New Senior Associate Dean (Administration/Facilities) and Associate Dean for Academics joining the ranks. Due to natural timing/turn-over, the College will be seeking a new Associate Dean of Research and Associate Dean and Director of Extension.

#### **Department of Horticultural Science:**

**Faculty:** The department comprises 14 Full professors, 12 Associate professors, 10 Assistant professors, 4 Senior lecturer/professional faculty and 9 professional non-faculty program leaders.

- 2024 new hires include Assistant Professors in Vegetable Production extension and teaching; Molecular Genetics of Weeds and Invasive Species research and teaching (60%HS:40% Crop and Soil Science); Translational Phenomics research and teaching; and open position underway in research and teaching in vegetable breeding.

#### **Academic Programs & Enrollment**

##### Graduate Program(s)

Horticultural Science (MR) – 11 students; Horticultural Science (MS) – 29 students;

Horticultural Science (PhD) – 22 students

This is our highest enrollment (n=62) in the department, associated with thriving faculty programs.

##### Undergraduate Program(s): (total 184)

Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems (BS): Urban Horticulture – 18 students

Horticultural Science (BS): Landscape Design, Gardens & Urban Environments – 76 students  
Horticultural Science (BS): Plant Breeding & Biotechnology – 38 students  
Horticultural Science (BS): Production Systems & Entrepreneurship – 52 students  
The department has more than doubled the undergrad population since 2017 when the numbers were 91.

(2-yr Associate Degree) Horticultural Science Management (AAS) – 36 students

Undergraduate Minor(s): Horticultural Science (Minor) – 105 students

Certificate(s): Graduate – Horticultural Science – 6 students; Undergraduate Certificate – 19 students.

### **Significant Faculty Awards in 2024:**

- Tom Ranney - The D. Todd Gresham Award for lifetime contributions to the Magnolia Industry; Magnolia Society International; Huntington, California, USA.
- Craig Yencho - 2024 fellow in the [National Academy of Inventors](#). NAI fellows are honored for the societal and economic impact of their inventions. (Our third Fellow in the Academy; one is in the [National Inventors Hall of Fame](#)).
- Craig Yencho – [2024 Max O. Gardner Award](#) highest award for the UNC System.
- Ricardo Hernandez - University Faculty Scholar
- Lucy Bradley: 2024 ASHS Outstanding Extension Educator Award
- John Dole - inaugural recipient of the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) [Esmaeil and Bahar Fallahi Award for Integrity and Professionalism](#). This award recognizes professional horticulturists who have demonstrated the highest level of a professional horticulturist in service to others.
- Penelope Perkins-Veazie - 2024 winner of the Chad Finn Ambassador Award; American Pomological Society.
- Emmanuel Torres: Fruit + Vegetable 40 Under 40 Awards, and a panel of industry experts has selected you as a member of the Class of 2024!

### **Communications:**

- [Hort Science newsletter](#): +2000 subscribers, both internal and external, primarily alumni have been identified.
- X/Twitter: 1075 followers, <https://x.com/NCStateHort>
- YouTube: 1450 subscribers, <https://www.youtube.com/HortNCState>

The JC Raulston Arboretum and the Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS) continue to thrive as sub-groups under the auspices of the Department. The JC Raulston Arboretum, located near the main campus, is a nationally acclaimed garden with diverse plant collections. It serves as a living laboratory for horticultural research, teaching, and public engagement. The arboretum emphasizes plant diversity, sustainability, and education, offering a serene environment for visitors to explore and learn. It is primarily self-funded and thriving. A new Director (Dr. Michelle Schroder Moreno) was recently appointed and joined the department as a full professor.

The department has expanded its leadership in multistate/multi-faculty, interdisciplinary programs (e.g. USDA SCRI, OREI, etc) leading 5 major initiatives in the past 5 years for a total funding of \$29.9 million in the areas of vaccinium, strawberry, sweetpotato and ornamental/nursery crops including efforts in genomics, production, pest management and robotics/AI.

Major initiatives include restructuring the management structure for the Horticultural Field Labs and Fox Undergraduate teaching greenhouses. Significant investments were made to address delayed maintenance and new opportunities to enhance infrastructural capacity. The department also hired a consulting company and advanced a feasibility study to optimize lab research space in Kilgore Hall as new faculty come on board.



## NCAC4 State Report – Doug Karcher, Horticulture and Crop Science

### OSU Leadership

- New President, Ted Carter (Neb), started 1/1/24
  - President Johnson resigning at end of academic year (Spring 24)
- Provost search ongoing - Melissa Gilliam left Fall 23 to become President of Boston Univ
- Leadership Stability on College Admin
  - Dean Kress in 2<sup>nd</sup> 5-yr term (through June 2027)
  - Exception in OSU Extension – Dir. Jackie Wilkins stepped down in 2023; new Interim Extension Director (David Civitollo)
- Lots of turnover at dept chair level,
  - Plant Pathology, FST, SENR, AEDE

### HCS

#### Budget

– Has remained steady, slight increase at the dept level mainly due to increase in SCH's

#### Horticulture and Crop Science Faculty -34 TT faculty, 2 PP onboarded 9 in 2023

- Agronomic Weed Specialist – Alyssa Essman
- Root Soil Microbiome – Florence Sessoms
- Turf Ext Specialist – Tyler Carr
- Synthetic Biologist – Radin Sadre
- Weed Ecology – Eugene Law
- Urban Foods, Greenhouse Nursery, Landscape Horticulture, and Ornamental Germplasm
- 
- Announced 2 faculty positions Fall 2023
  - Specialty Crop Weed Science
  - Forage Specialist
  - Reviewing applications now – pleased with strength of pool
- One retirement in 2023 – Doug Doohan – Specialty Crop Weed Specialist
- Passing of Mark Sulc (forage extension, glioblastoma) in Sept 2023

### Facilities

- CEAREC \$30M opened Fall 2022, Became fully online in Spring 2023. Production and research scale greenhouses utilized by our CEA and Floriculture faculty.
- Staffing issues at Wooster, North Central, and Muck Crop research stations

### Student Numbers

- Undergraduates – numbers remain steady, 140, across 8 programs of study
  - New CEA major and minor program
  - Graduates 10% growth from 2022 year- 46 students in 2023 ~ evenly split between MS and PhD. Expect continued upward trend with onboarding many new faculty

EXTERNAL REVIEW IN MARCH

Recruiting from urban populations, strategic future faculty hiring,

Here are my notes for the Oklahoma State report.

- 
- 2 majors - Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
- 150 total students
- About 130 undergraduate and 20 graduate - enrollment is up
- 80 Hort and 50 LA undergrads
- Graduates - Hort MS program in Dept - our PhD is interdisciplinary Crop Science
- Also we have MS students from ENVR Sci and MIAP
- 23 faculty in Dept
- 1 current opening tenure track in ornamental Hort teaching/research
- Lots of growth in our Botanic Garden on campus
- New Student Farm and partnership with ODB and regional Food Bank of OK - 2.5 to 6 - to 16 acres
- Very nice teaching greenhouse facility - Greenhouse Learning Center
- Great need for Hort research greenhouses renovations
- New Ag Building - new Agricultural Hall - moving July 29 - new classrooms, new research labs, beautiful new facility
- Encouraging faculty to be lead PIs on SCRI type grants - SREP and CAPs
- Industry partnership with Greenleaf Nursery based out of OK
- More industry mentorship of our undergraduates - some discussions

Oregon State University. From Ryan Contreras.

Horticulture dept. Size and numbers

- ~23 TT faculty. Relatively well-balanced among ranks. Different than when I started 15 years ago, when there were 4 professors. Now ~9 full. ~8 associate. ~6 assistant. Located in Corvallis, Aurora, Jacksonville, Hood River, Hermiston, Bend.
- ~110-120 employees
- 55 grad students
- 300 UG, 70% online. 7 options. PBGG just launched online. Therapeutic Horticulture launched online. Now can bill insurance so looking toward growth.
- Completely unofficial but I personally am interested in an Applied BS. Mentioned by Sonny Ramaswamy (Pres of Northwest Commission Colleges and Universities). Perhaps that is a way we can all recruit.

Source	FY23
Grant expenditure (exclude restricted gift)	6,090,951
Federal grant expenditure (a part of the grant expenditure above)	4,018,996
Total IP revenue	299,830
Hazelnut IP revenue alone (is included in the total IP revenue above)	166,168
ROH	141,561

- Strategic planning. University rolled out new plan (prosperity widely shared). Relatively new president, Jayathi Myrthi. We have new budget model for which we are unsure of the impact at the unit level. Hoping for relatively flat impact.
- Program review in 2024. Positive and will tackle recommendations with new department head, Patricia Stock who begins her leadership August 5.
- Sustainable Landscapes endowed position is launching its 3<sup>rd</sup> search.
- Hazelnut breeding finishing up 2<sup>nd</sup> round.

- Veg Breeding may potentially be open in the near future.
- Biotech Assistant Prof starting August 1. Beth Rowan.
- Weed management in annual cropping systems filled this year.
- Campus is 413-acre accredited arboretum through ArbNet. Hoping to get curator/instructor position funded.
- Strategic planning revealed interest among all stakeholders related to climate change that suggests whole plant physiologist would be a key hire.
- New greenhouses alleviated some pressure of research space and improved faculty morale.
- New COO and CFO at CAS.
- Research expenditures + external funding (in table)
- 2028 VI international symposium of woody ornamentals of the temperate zone co-convening with NCSU

## PURDUE

Here are some bullets for the meeting minute for Purdue's Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture:

- 1) 4 majors: Horticulture (6 concentrations plus adding a seventh in Controlled Environments), Sustainable Food and Farming Systems, Turf Management and Science, Landscape Architecture. About half of 211 students Fall of 2023 were in Landscape Architecture. Fall 2024 numbers are not yet available.
- 2) 29 faculty, 3 in non-tenure-track positions; two faculty retirements coming in 2024: Dr. Mike Dana and Dr. Cary Mitchell
- 3) 5 staff Extension specialists
- 4) ~30 graduate students and ~ 7 postdocs
- 5) Conducted an external review of the department in Spring 2024 which was very positive and recognized the strong department culture and collegiality.

Linda

**Linda Stalker Prokopy, Ph.D.**

*she/her/hers*

*Department Head and Professor, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture*

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o: 765-494-1306; [lprokopy@purdue.edu](mailto:lprokopy@purdue.edu)

Texas Tech Department of Plant and Soil Science: FY 2023 - 2024

New College Name (2022): Davis College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources

New College Dean (2022): Dr. Clint Krehbiel

Several Undergraduate Specializations: Crop Science, Soil and Water Science, Horticulture and Turfgrass Science, Viticulture and Enology, Local Food and Wine Production, Horticulture Distance

171 undergraduate students (2<sup>nd</sup> in College): Crops and Soils = 32, Horticulture = 139 (58 on campus, 63 distance, 12 V&E, 6 LFWP)

138 on campus graduate students (1<sup>st</sup> in College): 25 Horticulture, 45 distance Horticulture MS non-thesis students

Student Credit Hours: 2<sup>nd</sup> in College

Two Institutes: Fiber Biopolymer Research Institute / Institute of Genomics for Crop Abiotic Stress Tolerance

\$10.5 million external grant funding

Six faculty with TAMU AgriLife joint appointments

39 total faculty (31 tenure track): 9 tenured / tenure track directly in Horticulture (2 Assistant Professor of Practice, 2 lecturers)

Dr. Miriam Berdeja (begins 1 Sept. Assistant Professor viticulture): tenure track

Strength: Strong distance MS / non-thesis degree (improve graduate student #'s), Greenhouse gardens received funding for upgrades from private / university sources, PSS 1411 (recruit students), PSS awarded over \$250,000 in student scholarships (graduate / undergraduate), Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI),

Challenges: non-land grant, manage teaching loads (minority of faculty are Horticulture related, majority of undergraduate students are Horticulture students), undergraduate advising model (faculty currently advise undergraduate students, College / TTU moving to staff advisors), PSS 1411 (manage greenhouse, TA's)

**NCAC4 Annual Report Highlights – Utah State University, Dept. of Plants, Soils, and Climate**  
Dr. Paul G. Johnson, Professor and Department Head

Department website: <https://caas.usu.edu/psc/>

College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

College website: <https://caas.usu.edu/>

32 faculty currently with appointments in Teaching, Research, and Extension

**Undergraduate Majors:**

- Climate Science (Logan campus)
- Soils & Sustainable Land Systems (Logan campus)
  - Environmental Soil Science emphasis
  - Sustainable Food Production emphasis
- Plant Science (Logan campus and Wasatch Front)
  - Horticulture and Cropping Systems
  - Research
- Horticulture (Wasatch Front only)
- Residential Landscape Design & Construction (Logan campus and Wasatch Front)

Certificate (27 credits) and Associate of Applied Science degree (60 credits) in ornamental horticulture.

**Graduate Majors:**

- Climate Science
- Plant Science
- Soil Science
- Ecology

**Statewide programs—USU Salt Lake and Kaysville**

In addition to offering classes and programs on the main Logan campus, PSC has offered degrees in Horticulture and Landscape Design and Construction along the Wasatch Front (Ogden to Provo) and the program can be completed without setting foot on the Logan campus. Its about ¼ of our undergraduate enrollment. This program offers a unique opportunity in Utah to pursue plant and soil science education while staying closer to their home and maintaining their jobs. Classes are offered at night and online. Faculty from Salt Lake and Logan offer many of the classes plus adjunct faculty, most of whom have extensive experience in the appropriate fields, provide the instruction.

**Scholarships**

CAAS has the most scholarships available for students of all the colleges at Utah State University. Many of these are available to or directed to students in programs of PSC. The following shows undergraduate and graduate scholarship information for this current academic year.

**2023-24 Graduate Scholarships**

- Number of Scholarships: 13
- Number of Awards: 19
- Amount Awarded: \$67,142



- ~\$ available to award 2024-25: \$95K

#### 2023-24 Undergraduate Scholarships

- Number of Scholarships: 32
- Number of Awards: 42
- Amount Awarded: 74,439
- ~\$ available to award 2024-25: \$81K

#### Student enrollment in 2022-23 with trends increasing in 2023-2024

- Certificate and AAS: 15
- BS: 174
- MS: 35
- PhD: 31

#### Research

PSC has historically been in the top half of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences in terms of research (grant) awards. This past year, we led the 8 departments!

#### Extension

Our department continues to have an exceptionally strong set of faculty who are Extension Specialists in the state of Utah. For a state with a relatively small agriculture footprint, we are fortunate to have good support that serves not only Utah but much of the Intermountain West region.