

University of Arkansas Department of Horticulture

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

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UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Dale Bumpers College of
Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences
Horticulture

UofA

**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

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University of Arkansas
Dept. of Horticulture



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Come Grow With Us



The Department of Horticulture is involved in teaching , research, and service in accordance with the land grant mission of the University of Arkansas. The faculty provide leadership for the development, production and culture of fruits, vegetables, turf grasses, and ornamental plants of importance to Arkansas, the region and the nation .

Graduate Programs

The Department offers two options for a Master's Degree in Horticulture. One is a two-year thesis program in which students conduct scientific studies and prepare research reports for scientific journals; the other is a non-thesis program requiring primarily coursework.

The Ph.D. degree in Horticulture is administered jointly with the College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences. This degree takes 3-4 years and requires original research and the development of new knowledge.

Horticulture Research

Horticulture research at the University of Arkansas includes: genetics, breeding and cultivar development of fruit and vegetable crops, ornamentals, and turfgrasses; physiology and culture of fruit, vegetable, and ornamental crops; physiology and management of turfgrasses; biotechnology; and sustainable landscape management and design.

Interdisciplinary research is strong. There is excellent cooperation with Plant Pathology, Food Science, Entomology, Biological Sciences, Crop, Soils and Environmental Sciences and other departments. Plant production and processing systems that emphasize value added and utilize alternative pest control systems are encouraged.

Facilities

The Horticulture Department is located on the third floor of the Plant Sciences Building. In addition to offices for faculty, staff, and graduate students, there are five research laboratories. Our department shares greenhouse and lab space in the state-of-the-art facility on campus. This facility includes conventional greenhouse space, growth chambers, containment facilities for genetic engineering, and bio-control research.

The Department also has nine 1,000-square foot greenhouses at the Arkansas Agricultural Research and Extension Center located north of the campus. The Arkansas Agricultural Research and Extension Center have 90+ acres of land devoted to horticulture field research. Plant Evaluation gardens are located at the on-campus center as well.

Off-Campus Facilities

The Fruit Research Station at Clarksville- is 85 miles from Fayetteville. A large portion of our fruit crops research is conducted there, including breeding programs for grape, blackberry, peach, muscadine, and nectarine; cultivar testing on numerous crops; and cultural research on tree fruits, small fruits, and grapes. This station has 230 acres of land, greenhouses, cold storage, a laboratory, and office space.

The Vegetable Research Station at Kibler- is a one-hour drive from the Fayetteville campus and is a vital component of the vegetable research program. Eighty-six acres of land, greenhouses, and cold storage for seeds and produce make this a valuable station. Although this station is only 50 miles away from campus, it provides a different environment due to elevation and topography. It provides excellent conditions for screening for disease and insect resistance and for stress adaptation.

The Southwest Research and Extension Center at Hope- is a large facility serving agriculture and forestry in that area. Resident program technicians contribute major efforts to fruits, vegetables, ornamentals, and forestry research as directed by department faculty.



Excellent Location

Located in the beautiful Ozark Mountains of Northwest Arkansas, greater Fayetteville is a thriving metropolis area of over 560,000 residents. In addition to being the home of the University of Arkansas, the area is home to nationally known corporations such as Walmart, J.B. Hunt Transportation, and Tyson Foods.



Recreational and Cultural Opportunities



Northwest Arkansas offers a wide array of opportunities for camping, hiking, fishing, and mountain biking. The University of Arkansas and the City of Fayetteville sponsor numerous cultural activities including Broadway shows, musicals, and international performers at the Walton Arts Center and the University of Arkansas Theater. Northwest Arkansas boasts its own symphony orchestra, world renowned Crystal Bridges museum, and live music is abundant in many venues along Fayetteville's Dickson Street.

Graduate Faculty in the Department of Horticulture



**Dr. Amanda McWhirt, Associate Professor
/Extension Specialist/ Graduate Coordinator**

Education: Ph.D. in Agroecology,
North Carolina State University
Phone: (501) 671-2252
Email: amcwhirt@uada.edu
Areas of Interest: Practices and technologies in
production



Dr. Mary Savin, Professor & Department Head

Education: Ph.D. in Biological Sciences,
University of Rhode Island
Phone: (479)-575-5740
Email: msavin@uark.edu
Areas of Interest: Microbial Ecology and Soil Biology



Dr. Matt Bertucci, Assistant Professor

Education: Ph.D. Horticulture,
North Carolina State University
Phone: (479) 575-2790
Email: bertucci@uark.edu
Areas of Interest: Weed science,
sustainable fruit and vegetable
production, and small farms



Dr. Anthony Bowden, Assistant Professor

Education: Ph.D. in Novel Plant Propagation
Techniques, Mississippi State University
Phone: (256) 282-5576
Email: abowden@uada.edu
Areas of Interest: Plant propagation & plant
production technologies



**Dr. Aaron Cato, Extension Specialist-
Horticulture IPM**

Education: Ph.D. in Entomology,
University of Arkansas
Phone: (501) 671-2191
Email: ajcato@uark.edu
Areas of Interest: IPM, Pest Biology,
Pest Ecology, and Pest Monitoring Strategies



Dr. Ryan Dickson, Assistant Professor

Education: Ph.D. Environmental
Horticulture, University of Florida
Phone: (479) 575-2533
Email: ryand@uark.edu
Areas of Interest: Improving root zone health for
hydroponic and soilless crops and optimizing
small fruit production in soilless culture

Graduate Faculty in the Department of Horticulture



Dr. Wendell Hutchens, Assistant Professor

Education: Ph.D. in Plant Pathology, Virginia Tech
Phone: (479) 575-6205
Email: wendellh@uark.edu
Areas of Interest: Turf Pathology



**Dr. Jackie Lee, Associate Professor/
Director of the Fruit Research Station**

Education: Ph.D. in Entomology, University of Arkansas
Phone: (501) 671-2191
Email: jalee@uada.edu
Areas of Interest: IPM practices and pesticide regulations



Dr. Garry V. McDonald, Teaching Associate Professor

Education: Ph.D. in Horticulture, Texas A&M University
Phone: (479) 575-8780
Email: gmcdonal@uark.edu
Areas of Interest: Sustainable landscape design, installation, management



Dr. Michael D. Richardson, Professor

Education: Ph.D. in Agronomy, University of Georgia, Athens
Phone: (479) 575-2860
Email: mricha@uark.edu
Areas of Interest: Turfgrass Science



Dr. Amanda Philyaw Perez, Associate Professor

Education: Doctorate of Public Health, University of Arkansas Medical School
Phone: (501) 671-2228
Email: aphilyaw@uark.edu
Areas of Interest: Food Processing and Food Safety



Dr. Curt Rom, University Professor

Education: Ph.D. in Horticulture & Interdisciplinary Plant/Crop Physiology, Ohio State University
Phone: (479) 575-7434
Email: crom@uark.edu
Areas of Interest: Sustainability programs & alternative crops

Graduate Faculty in the Department of Horticulture



Dr. Ainong Shi, Associate Professor

Education: Ph.D. in Plant Pathology & Crop Sciences, North Carolina State University

Phone: (479) 575-2670

Email: ashi@uark.edu

Areas of Interest: Molecular Vegetable Breeding & Genetics



Dr. Margaret Worthington, Associate Professor

Education: Ph.D. in Crop Sciences, North Carolina State University

Phone: (479) 575-2122

Email: mlworth@uark.edu

Areas of Interest: Molecular Fruit Breeding & Genetics



Dr. Hannah Wright Smith, Weed Specialist

Education: Ph.D. in Weed Science, University of Georgia

Phone: (501) 251-4416

Email: hw044@uark.edu

Areas of Interest: Turfgrass, Speciality Crops, & Forestry