Plant Science (PTSC)

Wayne Mackay
Department Head
316 Plant Sciences Building
479-575-2603
Email: mackay@uark.edu

Degree Conferred:
Ph.D. (PTSC)

Areas of Concentration: Horticulture, Plant Pathology.

Program Description: The doctoral program in Plant Science is an interdepartmental program involving the departments of Plant Pathology and Horticulture.

Primary Areas of Faculty Research: Biological control of plant diseases, breeding for disease resistance, fungal biology, diseases of crop plants, mycotoxicology, nematology, physiology of parasitism and resistance, plant disease control, phytochemistry, soil microbiology, virology, genetics and plant breeding of fruit or vegetable crops, physiology and culture of fruit, vegetable or ornamental plants, and physiology and management of turfgrasses.

Ph.D. in Plant Science with Horticulture Concentration

Prerequisites to Degree Program: In addition to the requirements for admission to the Graduate School, the student must submit to the Chair of Studies a statement of interest, three letters of recommendation, which evaluate the potential of the student to pursue advanced graduate studies, and scores from the Graduate Record Examinations. International students must submit TOEFL scores with their application. Approval by the Plant Science Steering Committee is also necessary for acceptance into the program of study leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Admissions Requirements for Entry: The requirements for admission to the plant science Ph.D. program include the following: completion of an M.S. degree in a relevant biological science with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.00 or better (of 4.00), submission of scores from the verbal, quantitative, and written Graduate Record Examinations (GRE), three letters of recommendation, and official transcripts from all institutions attended.

Requirements for Doctor of Philosophy Degree: Each candidate must present a doctoral dissertation based on original research. Course requirements are established by the student's major adviser and the graduate advisory committee. The student must pass a candidacy examination at least two semesters before the expected conferral date of the degree. A final examination on the doctoral dissertation and cognate areas must be passed at least two weeks before the time of expected degree conferral. Students are expected to maintain a cumulative grade-point average of 2.85 or better (3.00 to graduate) as consistent with the policy of the Graduate School.

Students in the Plant Pathology concentration in the Plant Science program are required to complete three graduate credits in horticulture, six graduate credits in an area appropriate to their dissertation research, two credits in the Plant Science Colloquium, PLPA 5223, PLPA 5303, PLPA 5313, and PLPA 5404. In addition, students are expected to complete three of the four following courses: PLPA 5603, PLPA 6203, PLPA 6303 or PLPA 6503. All students in the plant pathology concentration are expected to attend seminars in both departments and are required to present at least four seminars (while enrolled for credit in PLPA 5001 Seminar) to include the following: a research proposal seminar, two topic seminars on subjects other than their research area and an exit seminar describing the results of their dissertation research.

All students will be expected to complete 18 hours of dissertation research.

Ph.D. in Plant Science with Plant Pathology Concentration

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Plant pathology will permit enrollment in one semester in CSES 5103 to be used as a substitute for one of the two topic seminars. All Ph.D. candidates are expected to gain teaching experience by assisting in the teaching of a regularly scheduled plant pathology course for one semester. Students with prior teaching experience can appeal to the Graduate Admissions Committee for a waiver in the Department of Plant Pathology. Additional requirements or waivers from these requirements are available in the Graduate Handbook in Plant Pathology.

Graduate Faculty

Bluhm, Burt H., Ph.D., M.S. (Purdue University), B.S. (University of Oklahoma), Associate Professor, 2008.
environmental factors interact to affect and control plant growth and development. An understanding of the developmental processes of plant growth and how plant growth and development. A student completing this course should have

This course will focus on environmental and developmental processes of HORT 5103. Plant Growth and Development. 3 Hours.

Application of genetic principles to the improvement of crop plants. Presentation of conventional plant breeding methods and special techniques such as polyploidy, interspecific hybridization and induced mutation. Lecture 3 hours per week. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both HORT 4033 and HORT 5303. Prerequisite: Lab component. Prerequisite: HORT 2003.

HORT 530V. Special Problems. 1-6 Hour.

Graduate degree credit will not be given for both HORT 400V and HORT 530V. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

HORT 5333. Professional Landscape Installation and Construction. 3 Hours.

Principles and practices involved in landscape installation and construction. Topics covered include sequencing construction activities, protecting existing trees, landscape soils, selecting plants, planting and transplanting plant materials, wood construction, cement and masonry construction, and low-voltage lighting. Lecture 3 hours per week. Preparatory training in agribusiness or business is suggested. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both HORT 4033 and HORT 5333. Prerequisite: HORT 2003.

HORT 5403. Plant Propagation. 3 Hours.

Principles of plant propagation using seeds, cuttings, grafting, budding, layering, and tissue culture. The physiological basis of propagation is described. Knowledge of plant growth and physiology is needed. Lecture 2 hours, laboratory 2 hours per week. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both HORT 4403 and HORT 5403. Corequisite: Lab component. Prerequisite: BIOL 1613 and BIOL 1611L.

HORT 5413. Horticulture Physiology. 3 Hours.

This course provides students with a background into the physiological processes of plants with an emphasis on horticultural crops and how the processes relate to horticultural crop production practices. Among the topics covered are photosynthesis, respiration, water relations and morphogenesis. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both HORT 4413 and HORT 5413. Prerequisite: HORT 2003 and CHEM 1073.

HORT 5503. Sustainable Nursery Production. 3 Hours.

This course addresses issues and practices involved in production of quality woody nursery crops (e.g. trees and shrubs produced in open filed and containerized systems). Graduate degree credit will not be given for both HORT 4503 and HORT 5503.
PLPA 5324. Applied Plant Disease Management. 4 Hours.
(Formerly PLPA 4304.) A plant pathology course emphasizing practical understanding of the concepts and principles of agronomic and horticultural crop disease management, including disease diagnosis, monitoring, and using models to forecast disease events. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PLPA 4304 and PLPA 5324.

PLPA 5333. Biotechnology in Agriculture. 3 Hours.
(Formerly PLPA 4333.) Discussion of the techniques, applications, and issues of biotechnology as it is being used in modern agriculture. Coverage includes the basics of molecular biology, production of transgenic plants and animals, and new applications in the agricultural, food, and medical marketplace. Lecture and discussion, 3 hours per week. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PLPA 4333 and PLPA 5333.

PLPA 5404. Diseases of Economic Crops. 4 Hours.
Diagnosis and management of important diseases of cotton, fruits, rice, trees, soybeans, wheat, and vegetables will be covered in a lecture, laboratory, and field format. Lecture 2 hours, laboratory 4 hours per week. Four 1-day field trips will be involved. Corequisite: Lab component. Prerequisite: PLPA 3004.
PLPA 5603. Plant Pathogenic Fungi. 3 Hours.
Plant Pathogenic Fungi is structured as an integrated lecture/laboratory class designed for students that are interested in developing an understanding and appreciation for taxonomy, biology, and ecology of plant pathogenic fungi and related saprophytic fungi. Corequisite: Lab component. Prerequisite: PLPA 3004 or BIOL 4424 or graduate standing.

PLPA 600V. Master's Thesis. 1-6 Hour.
Master's Thesis. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.

PLPA 6203. Plant Virology. 3 Hours.
Lecture emphasizing discussion of recent advances in plant virology. Laboratory concerned with techniques and equipment used in plant virus studies, including transmission of viruses, characterization utilizing ultracentrifugation, spectrophotometry, electrophoresis, electron microscopy, and serology. Lecture 2 hours, laboratory 3 hours per week. Corequisite: Lab component. Prerequisite: CHEM 5813 or CHEM 5843 or CHEM 6873 or consent of instructor.

PLPA 6303. Plant Nematology. 3 Hours.
Nematodes and their relationship to plant diseases, with consideration of identification, morphology, biology, distribution, association with disease complexes and control. Lecture 2 hours, laboratory 2 hours per week. Corequisite: Lab component. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

PLPA 6503. Plant Bacteriology. 3 Hours.
Current concepts and techniques in plant bacteriology, including taxonomic, ecological and molecular aspects of plant pathogenic bacteria and their interactions with hosts. Lecture 2 hours, laboratory 2 hours per weeks. Corequisite: Lab component. Prerequisite: BIOL 2013 and BIOL 2011L. May be repeated for up to 3 hours of degree credit.

Plant Sciences Courses

PTSC 6101. Colloquium in Plant Sciences. 1 Hour.
Advanced discussion of topics in plant science on a participatory basis. Topics in plant pathology, horticulture and forestry will be treated. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for up to 2 hours of degree credit.

PTSC 6203. Laboratory Instrumentation in Plant Science. 3 Hours.
Principles, capabilities, and operation of laboratory instrumentation utilized in plant science research. Lecture 2 hours, laboratory 3 hours per week. Corequisite: Lab component.

PTSC 700V. Doctoral Dissertation. 1-18 Hour.
Doctoral Dissertation. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.