



College of Agriculture
and Natural Resources
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Horticulture

BY THE NUMBERS

100

certificate students

110

undergrad students

59

graduate students

42

faculty members

6,794

alumni

ABOUT

Horticulture has been part of the MSU curriculum since this pioneer land-grant institution opened in 1857. In 1883, Horticulture became a separate department headed by Liberty Hyde Bailey, who later became known as the “Dean of American Horticulture.” The department has offered master’s degrees since 1910 and Ph.D. degrees since 1927.

Today, the department is known throughout the world for its excellence in teaching and research. It prepares students for horticulture-related careers in science and business, where they may be making new discoveries in the plant sciences; promoting the use of plants and food for improved human health and a safe environment; improving the characteristics, quality and availability of horticultural products; and strengthening the competitive position of the world’s horticultural industries.

PROGRAMS

Certificate: Institute of Agricultural Technology (IAT) offers two-year program in landscape and nursery management.

Undergraduate: Bachelor’s degree with over 110 majors.

Graduate: Master’s and Ph.D. degrees. The horticulture graduate program is one of the oldest, largest and most prestigious in the United States. In addition, Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology is an interdepartmental graduate program, and Molecular Plant Sciences is a dual major graduate program leading to a Ph.D.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

There are various ways to support faculty and students, including:

- Student organic farm
- Graduate fellowships and teaching assistants
- Greenhouse infrastructure and facilities
- Endowed faculty support

CONTACTS

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WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

LEARN: A desire for lifelong enrichment marks a true Spartan. A wide variety of programs are available in person and online for continues learning.

GET TOGETHER: On campus and throughout the world there are many opportunities for Spartans to connect with one another.

GIVE BACK: Spartans make a difference. Join our ranks of Spartans who are enhancing the MSU experience for students, faculty and staff.

TRADITIONS: There are many ways for alumni and fans to show their support of the university.

FIND OUT MORE: canr.msu.edu/alumniengagement

STAY CONNECTED

UPDATE your information: alumni.msu.edu/update.

EMAIL: Sign-up to receive the CANR Alumni newsletter: canr.msu.edu/alumninewsletter.

MAGAZINE: Read *In the Field*, featuring stories from the college. Join the mailing list by making a gift at the Spartan Loyal level or above.

WEB: canr.msu.edu/alumni

FOLLOW CANR on social:

RESEARCH

- Research in greenhouses and the [Controlled-Environment Lighting Lab](#) to improve the production efficiency and quality of high-value specialty crops, particularly in bedding plants and leafy greens. Through this research he also educates and provides unbiased, science-based information to growers, plant lighting companies and others with commercial interest in controlled-environment agriculture.
- Focus on dissecting the underlying genetics of key traits (such as flavor, aroma, disease resistance) needed to guide breeding efforts to generate new, superior blueberry and strawberry cultivars.
- Assist vegetable farmers to manage weed and soil management tradeoffs to improve profitability while building resilience to abiotic stress. Current projects include optimization of cover cropping and in-row mechanical cultivation tools to suppress weeds while maintaining healthy soils. Recently, the Brainard lab released several educational videos on cultivation tools with support from the NC-SARE Program.

OUTREACH

Providing knowledge and educational programming to the citizens of Michigan. Numerous outreach programs aimed at a clientele that ranges from the largest professional growers, packers, shippers and processors to homeowners and hobbyists. Programs include:

- Master Gardener
- Short courses in tree fruits, small fruits, viticulture, landscape management and postharvest physiology
- Numerous field days.