



University of Florida Plant Medicine Program

Promoting Plant Health While Protecting the Environment



Robert J. McGovern
Professor and Director

Mission and Goals

Great progress has been made in plant health management through the efforts of individual agriscience disciplines (Agronomy, Entomology, Pathology, etc.). However, there is a great need to integrate and interpret this increasingly complex information on the doctoral level for its intended clientele.



2000:
Plant Medicine
Program started
at Univ. Florida

UF's Plant Medicine Program is a multidisciplinary 3 to 4-year course of study in plant and soil science, entomology, nematology, and plant pathology. Research and dissertation not required. Upon program completion (**120 credit hours**) candidates receive a Doctor of Plant Medicine degree (D.P.M.).



General
Education

Intermediate
Degree

Highest
Research
Degree

Practicing
Degree

Human Health

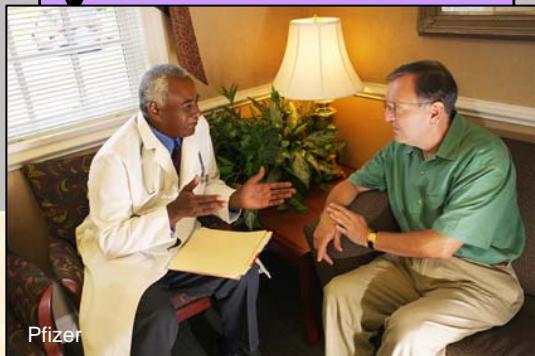
B.S. or B.A.

M.S. ± Thesis

(Technician or other)

Ph.D.

(Researcher,
Professor)



Pfizer

Animal Health

B.S. or B.A.

M.S. ± Thesis

(Technician or other)

Ph.D.

(Researcher,
Professor)



Illinois photo

Plant Health

B.S. or B.A.

M.S. ± Thesis

(Technician or other)

Ph.D.

(Researcher,
Professor)



CORE PLANT MEDICINE COURSES

Department	Credits
Plant Sciences	16
Soil Science	3
Entomology	19-20
Nematology	3
Plant Pathology	21
Other (Agric. Law, Integrated Plant Medicine, etc.)	8
Total	70-71

ELECTIVE COURSES: 19-20 Credits (Total = 90)



In addition to 90 credits of coursework, students must accumulate 30 internship credits in all relevant disciplines.



CORE PLANT MEDICINE INTERNSHIPS

Department	Credits
Soil Science	2
Entomology	4
Nematology	2
Plant Pathology	3
Total	11

ELECTIVE INTERNSHIPS: 19 Credits (Total = 30)



Students specialize by crop or other interest through electives

Certificate programs currently exist for DPM students in:

Agroforestry (Specialization)

Environmental Policy Management

Latin American Studies

Tropical Agriculture

Tropical Conservation and Development

Plant Pest Risk Assessment and Management

Certificate programs currently exist for DPM students in:

Agroforestry (Specialization)

Environmental Policy Management

Latin American Studies

Tropical Agriculture

Tropical Conservation and Development

Plant Pest Risk Assessment and Management

DPM Student advisement and degree completion

- ❖ Students guided by a three member supervisory committee (Plant/Soil Scientist, Entomologist/Nematologist, Plant Pathologist)
- ❖ Standardized written exam consisting of three sections (Entomology/Nematology, Plant Pathology, Plant/Soil Science). Each exam is 8 hrs. and passing is 80%/"B"
- ❖ Oral exam administered by a student's supervisory committee

Funding the D.P.M. degree

- ✿ First-year assistantship, stipend & tuition waiver -> FL residency
- ✿ Thereafter, the major sources of funding for DPM students are:
 - Research/teaching assistantships
 - Full time jobs
 - Fellowships/scholarships
 - Student loans

Prerequisites for admission

- ✿ B.S. in an agricultural science, or a related discipline (biology, environmental studies, etc.)
- ✿ ≥ 3.0 ("B") grade point average
- ✿ ≥ 1000 GRE (combined verbal + quantitative)
- ✿ ≥ 550 (paper test) or 213 (computer test) TOEFL

Graduates



2003:

1st D.P.M. degrees awarded
by University of Florida;
21 grads thus far

Private Consulting



Christian Miller
D.P.M. 12/03

**Crop Consultant -
Ornamentals and turf**

**Glades Crop Care, Inc.,
Jupiter Florida**

**Johanna Welch
D.P.M. 05/05**

**Crop Consultant -
Vegetable production
& Food Safety**

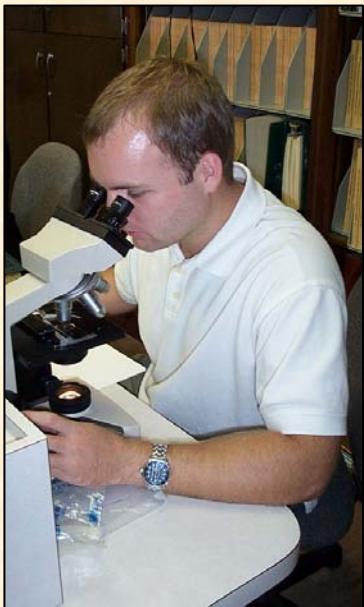
**Glades Crop Care, Inc.,
Jupiter Florida**



Stephanie Bledsoe
D.P.M. 12/04

Independent Consultant -
Turf and ornamentals

West Palm Beach, FL



Jade Allen
D.P.M. 5/04

Independent Consultant -
Ornamentals and turf

Ormond Beach, FL

Cooperative Extension



**Stacy Strickland
D.P.M. 12/03**

**Multicounty agricultural
agent (vegetables, citrus,
ornamentals)**

**University of Florida-IFAS
Hernando county**

Rajya Shukla
D.P.M. 5/04

Coordinator,
Plant Diagnostic Clinic

Ohio State University,
Wooster, OH



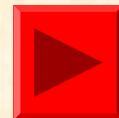


**Mark Mossler
D.P.M., 4/05**

**Assistant in Pesticide
Information UF-IFAS**

**Pesticide Information
Office, Gainesville, FL**

Chemically Speaking Newsletter



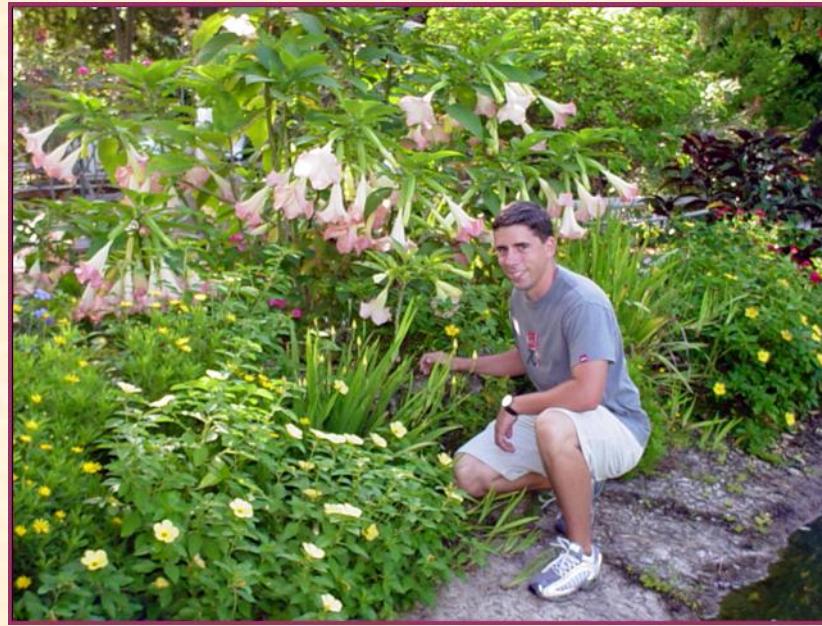
Monica Cooper
D.P.M. 2006

Research and Extension
Assistant

UC Berkeley
Sonoma Valley,
California



**Municipalities,
parks, botanical
gardens...**



**Anthony Camerino
D.P.M. 2006**

**McGuire Center for Lepidoptera, Florida
Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, FL**

Plant Health Specialist



Agribusiness

Javier Garces
D.P.M. 8/04

Plant Health Specialist

Skinner's Nurseries,
Jacksonville Florida





**Tina Duperron
D.P.M. 5/05**

**Technical/Sales
Representative**

**Massey Services, Inc.
Orlando, Florida**

Regulatory Agriculture



Osmond Baron
D.P.M. 8/03

Pest Survey Specialist

USDA-APHIS/PPQ,
Cleveland, OH

**Shawron Weingarten
D.P.M. 5/05**

Entomology identifier

**USDA-APHIS/PPQ,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL**





**Esther Dunn Serrano
D.P.M. 12/05**

**Plant Disease Survey
Specialist**



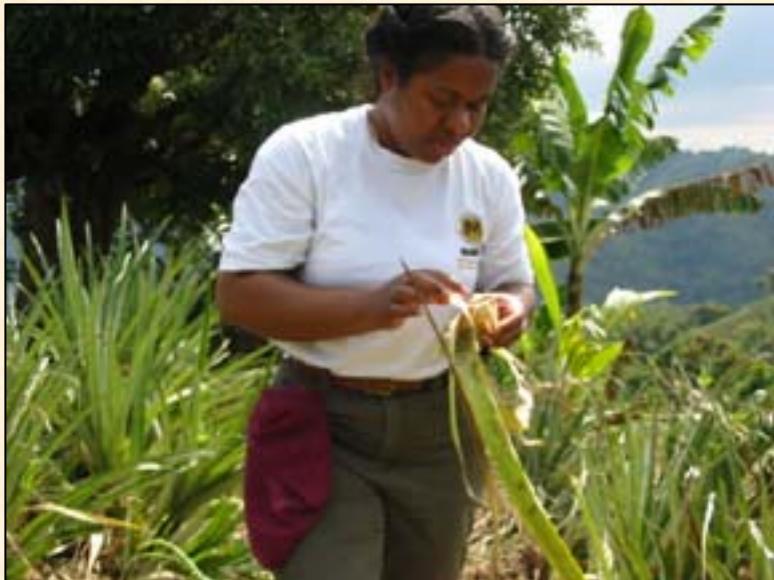
**USDA-APHIS/PPQ,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL**



**Adam Silagy
D.P.M. 8/03**

**Coordinator of CAPS
Program in Florida**

**FDACS-DPI,
Gainesville, FL**



Lisa Myers
D.P.M. 12/03

**Chief Plant Protection
Officer**

**Ministry of Agriculture,
Jamaica**



Nonprofit organizations



Adam Silagy
D.P.M. 8/03 (“First DPM”)

**L’Agencie d’Aide a la
Cooperation Technique et au
Developpement (ACTED)**

Food Security Program

Khatlon, Tajikistan

Daniel Sonke
D.P.M.12/05

**Technical and Scientific
Coordinator**

**Protected Harvest
Arnold, MD
(headquarters)**



Future Plant Doctors



There are currently 34 DPMs. Students have come from 12 states (AR, CA, DE, FL, GA, KY, MA, PA, TX, UT, VT and WA) and 11 countries (Benin, Bhutan, Dominica, Ecuador, Germany, Ghana, Jamaica, Korea, Mozambique, Paraguay, and U.S.).

<http://www.dpm.ifas.ufl.edu>

