**DISEASE**
Lethal Yellowing

**PUTATIVE CAUSAL AGENT**
*Candidatus Phytoplasma palmae*

**INSECT VECTOR**
*Haplaxius crudus*

**PLANT HOSTS**
Palms

**SYMPTOMS**
Fruit drop and flower necrosis
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WELCOMING REMARKS

Dear Alumni, Friends, Faculty, and Students:

2019-2020 began as an exciting academic calendar year for the University of Florida, DPM Program! During Spring 2020, we were pleased to welcome one new student: Shannon McAmis. We also hosted our First Annual Meeting of Plant Doctors and Plant Health Professionals, the inaugural offering of the Agrios Scholarship, and a public educational event entitled ‘February Flora and Fauna Fest.’ Our first $1,000 scholarship was possible through a generous donation by Agromillora, and DPM student Sage Thompson was our first scholarship recipient. We could not have reached our Endowment Pledge Goal of $30,000 without the generous support of the Martin Law Firm, the family of the late Dr. George Agrios, faculty, and alumni supporters. Pledge contributions for the endowment are still ongoing with the Endowment Campaign and thank you for your continued support of our students.

As I know that your world changed in March of 2020, the lives of students, faculty, and staff were also immediately altered and shifted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the week of March 23, 2020, the University of Florida immediately suspended all research activities. All University of Florida classes were transitioned to an online platform. Some of our faculty were prepared for the transition to online courses and others were not. All in-person extension events and professional conferences were cancelled. Endless web-based meetings and a flurry of e-mails occurred to discuss the plan to resume activities and transition to a new workflow pattern with improved safety precautions and considerations. Throughout this difficult time, our students continued to focus on their graduate assistantship duties through preparing publications, developing a new social media campaign, improving and redesigning content for online extension materials, and so much more. Although we are currently conducting significant computer work remotely until at least July, we have never stopped working for the DPM Program and our funded research and extension projects. At the time of this writing, I have already submitted 10 research activity resumption activities for approval and many of our students have returned to field activities associated with their graduate assistant funding. Our physical campus at the University of Florida may have closed for a time, but our DPM programmatic emphasis on learning and professional development has not ceased.

Despite the extreme stress surrounding world pandemic events and the social justice issues within our American culture, the DPM Program remains strong and dedicated to our mission of interdisciplinary education. The leadership of the University of Florida, IFAS, and CALS has also tremendously supported all graduate student education during this unprecedented time. I remain deeply grateful for every administrator, faculty, staff, stakeholder, and alumni who has continued to walk beside our DPM Program during such a time as this. Stay strong, courageous, and please know that you are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amanda Hodges
Director, Doctor of Plant Medicine Program
NEW STUDENT PROFILE

SHANNON McAMIS

Academic Credentials:

- MS in Agronomy - University of Florida
- BS in Cell and Molecular Biology - University of South Florida

Why DPM?

Growing up on my family’s farm, agriculture was always of interest to me. During my M.S. I began to further appreciate the complexities of agricultural systems and wanted to broaden my understanding of the different aspects involved in agriculture. I am excited to do this through the DPM program’s interdisciplinary approach and to use this knowledge in a future career in agriculture.

DOCTOR OF PLANT MEDICINE

STUDENT ORGANIZATION NEWS

STUDENT OFFICERS

Congratulations to Ellie, Brianna, Heather, Nick, Hannah, and Matt for winning the 2020 DPMSO officer elections!

President
Eleanor Phillips

Vice President
Brianna Whitman

Secretary
Heather Kalaman

Treasurer
Nick Goltz

Graduate Student Council Rep
Hannah Talton

Historian
Matt Borden
STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**BENJAMIN WALDO**

Benjamin Waldo presented his work from Dr. Billy Crow’s lab at Flora and Fauna Fest poster session.

**MATT BORDEN**

Congratulations to Matt Borden, a dual MS Entomology/DPM student, on the successful defense of his thesis titled: Evaluating Soil Mitigation Tactics and Alternate Shrub Selection to Create More Sustainable Residential Landscapes.

Congratulations Matt!

**CRAIG FREY**

DPM student Craig Frey is the new multi-county commercial horticulture Extension agent for Southwest Florida and the new county Extension director for Hendry County.

Congratulations Craig!

**HEATHER KALAMAN**

DPM and MS Environmental Horticultural student Heather Kalaman was a recipient of the Halifax Garden Club of America scholarship, as well as the Bloom and Grow Garden Society scholarship.

Congratulations Heather!

**SAGE THOMPSON**

Congratulations Sage Thompson for becoming the first DPM Agrios Scholarship Endowment Winner!

Congratulations Sage!

**ALICIA KELLEY**

Congratulations to Alicia Kelley for winning the 2020 FFFA scholarship.

Congratulations Alicia!
Program Exhibits, Activities, and Student Recruiting

January

- DPM student Keir Hamilton gave a talk about water to students at Carrollwood Day School in Tampa, Florida.
- Dr. Scott Croxton, Product Development Representative for Nichino America, delivered a spring DPM Seminar.

February

- DPM at the CALS Career Expo with Elena Alyanaya and Alex Gannon.
- The University of Florida, DPM Program host the first ever February Flora & Fauna Fest (FFFF)!
- DPM students Eleanor Phillips, Matt Borden and Benjamin Waldo presented posters at FFFF.
- Alex Gannon presented his Florida First Detector work.
- DPM student Hannah Talton served as a panelist for the Women and Minorities in Agriculture discussion during FFFF.

March

- DPM students set up a table to sell a wide variety of plants under Steinmetz Hall breezeway.

April

- Heather gave a presentation to the Halifax Garden Club of America in Ormond Beach.
The DPM program gave me so many unique opportunities and connections for the past four years. As I reflect on all of those experiences, I am most grateful for all the people I was fortunate to meet. Our program allows us to connect with students and scientists across all plant science disciplines at UF. It is truly a one of a kind graduate experience. I have fond memories of chatting with horticulture students about plant physiology, with soil science students about carbon labelling, and plant pathology students about Xanthomonas. I have always been interested in everything, and the DPM program gave me the scientific literacy I needed to talk to scientists in multiple fields. Of course my most cherished times were with my fellow DPM students who shared this unique experience with me. I’ll always remember our laughter at the Plant Disease Clinic, belting at karaoke, and late nights listening to each other and cheering ourselves on.

I want to thank Dr. Kirsten Pelz-Stelinski for being my mentor all these years and always inspiring me to do great science. Thank you a million times over to Dr. Gabriel Maltais-Landry for taking a chance on a bug person and teaching me everything I know about soil. Thank you to Dr. Hodges for your support and encouragement, and for continuing to work with GRACE Grows. I began working with GRACE as a volunteer, and it has grown so much since then. I am so proud that our program is involved with such a fantastic cause. A special thanks goes out to Abigail and Sienna for everything you do. You are extraordinary people, and I’m forever grateful for the time I spent with you at GRACE.

This is farewell to my time as a student, but not to all of the people I met along the way. I look forward to seeing all of you again soon!

Congratulations to our SPRING 2020 Graduate! We wish you the best!
This February, the DPM program hosted the first February Flora and Fauna Festival (FFFF). FFFF consisted of a plant health conference and a festival that was open to the public. It was a celebration of all things plants and wildlife. All proceeds went to fund the Agrios Scholarship. We were so grateful for the support from the Agrios Family, Martin Law Firm, and industry sponsor Agromillora. With their contributions, we officially achieved our first endowed scholarship for DPM students at the University of Florida! We also want to thank FMC, Syngenta, and Landback Agriculture for sponsoring the First Annual Conference of Plant Doctors and Plant Health Professionals. We are forever grateful for the following alumni Tim Durham, Carmen Collazo, Clay Pederson, and Mark Mossler who were recognized for their significant contributions around planning for the conference. Lastly, we would like to thank Brianna Whitman, Sage Thompson, Tim Durham, Carmen Collazao and our director Amanda Hodges for taking the lead as co-organizers for the FFFF event. We look forward to seeing what's in store for next year!
DPM STUDENTS

Jessica Awad
Florida, USA

Clayton Bania
Florida, USA

Matt Borden
Virginia, USA

Alex Deiulio
Florida, USA

Zach Eldred
West Virginia, USA

Craig Frey
Maryland, USA

Alex Gannon
Florida, USA

Jenny Gavilanez-Slone
Florida, USA

Nick Goltz
Florida, USA

Keir Hamilton
Florida, USA

Andy Jean-Louis
Cap-Haitien, Haiti

Heather Kalaman
Florida, USA

Alicia Kelley
Indiana, USA

Shannon McAmis
Florida, USA

Chastity Perry
Florida, USA

Eleanor Phillips
Tennessee, USA

Morgan Pinkerton
Florida, USA

Julia Rycyna
Maryland, USA

Taylor Smith
Florida, USA

Hannah Talton
North Carolina, USA

Sage Thompson
Florida, USA

Benjamin Waldo
Indiana, USA

Brianna Whitman
Idaho, USA
External Advisory Committee

BEN BOLUSKY  
Chief Executive Officer, Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association

REGGIE BROWN  
Former Executive Vice President, Florida Tomato Exchange

TREVOR SMITH  
State Plant Regulatory Official/Director, FDACS-Division of Plant Industry

MARY HARTNEY  
President and Executive Director, Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association, Committee Chair

GARY HEIN  
Doctor of Plant Health Director, University of Nebraska

RICHARD MIRANDA  
Florida State Plant Health Director, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

MADELINE MELLINGER  
President, Glades Crop Care, Past Committee Chair

CLAY PEDERSON  
Managing Director, Agromillora Florida, Chair of the DPM Alumni Support Committee

TIM DURHAM  
Associate Professor of Crop Science, Ferrum College, Vice Chair of the DPM Alumni Support Committee

MARTHA RHODES ROBERTS  
Former FDACS, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, Adjunct Professor, University of Florida

MARK MOSSLER  
DPM Alumni Representative

Faculty Advisory Committee

JOHN CAPINERA  
Entomology and Nematology Department

BILLY CROW  
Entomology and Nematology Department

NICK DUFAULT  
Department of Plant Pathology

JOHN ERICKSON  
Agronomy Department

NORMAN LEPPLA  
Entomology and Nematology Department

OSCAR LIBURD  
Entomology and Nematology Department

GREG MACDONALD  
Agronomy Department

HEATHER MCAUSLANE  
Entomology and Nematology Department

KIMBERLY MOORE  
Environmental Horticulture Department, Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center

JOHN PETERSON  
Environmental Horticulture Department

KEITH SCHNEIDER  
Food Science and Human Nutrition Department

JASON SMITH  
School of Forest Resources and Conservation

J. STACY STRICKLAND  
County Extension Director, Osceola County

XIN ZHAO  
Horticultural Sciences Department

Doctor of Plant Medicine Student Organization (DPMSO)

ELEANOR PHILLIPS  
President

BRIANNA WHITMAN  
Vice President

ELEANOR PHILLIPS  
Secretary

NICK GOLTZ  
Treasurer

MATT BORDEN  
Historian

HANNAH TALTON  
GSC Representative

AMANDA HODGES  
Faculty Advisor

DPM Program Staff

AMANDA HODGES  
DPM Director

ELENA ALYANAYA  
Academic Advisor I