INVASIVE SPECIES
*Pieris rapae* (L.)

COMMON NAME
Imported cabbageworm
Cabbage white

PLANT HOSTS
Cabbage
Collard
Kale

DAMAGE
Reduce to stem and large viens

CONTROL
Bacterial insecticide
*Bacillus thuringiensis*
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Dear Alumni, Friends, Faculty, and Students:

During Spring Semester 2021, the University of Florida began to plan for a more normalized schedule that relaxed pandemic restrictions during low case load numbers, and increases restrictions when cases increase. Vaccination for COVID-19 became widely available during this semester, and this resulted in an increased morale. As noted from the newsletter, we were pleased to hold a virtual ‘February Flora and Fauna Fest’ event as we plan for an in-person event during 2022. We also awarded our 2nd scholarship in honor of the late Dr. George Agrios to Ms. Hannah Talton. Numerous alumni were involved in planning our 2nd Annual Plant Health Professionals and Plant Doctors conference, and notably, Dr. Tim Durham and Dr. Nicole Casuso organized a virtual discussion session, and Dr. Ariane McCorquodale planned for alumni trivia events. Dr. Tim Durham also led committee efforts to select the 2021 scholarship recipient. Our keynote speaker for the virtual 2nd Annual Conference of Plant Doctors and Plant Health Professionals was Dr. Mike Aerts, from FFVA. UF-IFAS CALS Dean Dr. Elaine Turner and Associate Dean Dr. Joel Brendemuhl attended the conference. External stakeholders including Dr. Richard Miranda, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Ms. Madeline Mellinger, Glades Crop Care, and Mr. Ben Bolusky, FNGLA were also in attendance.

The DPM program remains successful due to your steadfast support and volunteer assistance for important programmatic activities, such as the 2nd Annual Conference of Plant Doctors and Plant Health Professionals-thank you for your support. Our alumni also are exceptional in their dedication to current students through the review of George Agrios scholarship applications-thank you for your support.

The faculty and students affiliated with the DPM program have been working diligently to provide high-quality and unique hands-on educational opportunities. The pandemic has challenged our process, but not our resolve to deliver exceptional educational opportunities to students. As we press on through 2021, we intend to apply lessons learned and educational opportunities from the pandemic to our current academic year and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support of the UF, DPM Program! We look forward to hearing from you if you have questions or comments as we continue to strive towards the delivery of exceptionally educated and job-ready plant health professionals.

Sincerely,

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

LINDSAY MIKELL

**Academic Credentials:**
- BS in Water Sciences - University of South Florida
- Co-enrolled in MS in Environmental Horticulture

**Why DPM?**
I have always enjoyed working with my hands, having variety, and working outside. After a lot of experience, I identified these three aspects as goals for my working environment. When I discovered the DPM program I was grateful and excited to learn that it provides many opportunities to work hands on with plants, in the field, and I would be learning and applying knowledge from multiple different disciplines to problems I might encounter. Another aspect about the DPM program that I found attractive was that as a Doctor of Plant Medicine I could work directly with farmers, personal gardeners, and local communities. I believe interacting closely with other people would provide the opportunity to have a strong impact on educating and inspiring my community, and as a DPM I will be placed in work environments where I will excel and be the most purposeful to those around me.

DOCTOR OF PLANT MEDICINE
STUDENT ORGANIZATION NEWS

**STUDENT OFFICERS**
Congratulations to Brianna, Nick, Heather, Julia, Andy, and Hannah winning the Fall 2020 DPMSO officer elections!

President
Brianna Whitman
Vice President
Nick Goltz
Secretary
Heather Kalaman
Treasurer
Julia Rycyna
Graduate Student Council Rep
Andy Jean-Louis
Historian
Hannah Talton
Congratulations Hannah Talton who completed her Master’s Degree in Entomology. In addition, Hannah was the recipient for the 2nd Annual Agrios Scholarship.

Zach Eldred is preparing to go to the University of the Virgin Island’s Cooperative Extension for a summer internship. Look forward to the summer 2021 newsletter where Zach will provide detail on his experience.

Nick Goltz is preparing for his life after graduation (Summer 2021). He has received and accepted a job offer at the University of Connecticut as an Assistant Extension Educator. His primary work will include directing the Plant Diagnostic lab.

Brianna Benitez accepted a full time position as a Biological Scientist I at the Plant Diagnostic Center.

Congratulations Shannon McAmis for winning 1st place in the Extension and Outreach Oral presentation competition at the Entomological Society of America Southeastern Branch meeting.

Andy Jean-Louis moved to Homestead, FL to help with thrips research. Look forward to the summer 2021 newsletter where Andy will provide detail on his experience.
JANUARY
- Preparations occurred for the second annual Plant Doctor and Plant Health Professionals Conference, a Virtual Event that occurred in February of 2021.
- The team for February Fauna and Fest (FFF) prepared for a virtual Plant Doctor and Plant Health Professionals Conference.

FEBRUARY
- February 2nd, the DPM program held a DPM Triva & New Student Welcome.
- The University of Florida, DPM Program hosted the second annual Plant Doctors and Plant Health Professionals Virtual Conference on February 27th, 2021. (See page 9 for more details)
- Preparations occurred for the second annual Plant Doctor and Plant Health Professionals Virtual Conference on February 27th, 2021.
- The team for February Fauna and Fest (FFF) prepared for a virtual Plant Doctor and Plant Health Professionals Conference.

MARCH
- DPM students co-enrolled in a Masters in Environmental Horticulture worked a plant sale on March 26-28, 2021 for the Environmental Horticulture Graduate Student Association.
- DPM students volunteered at Grace Grows in addition to donating plants for their garden.
- The promotional video series continued March 9th with a research talk by Hannah Talton.

APRIL
- DPM student Heather Kalaman served as a guest lecturer April 7th for the Annual and Perennial Gardening (ORH 4804/5206C) course here at UF by Dr. Sandra Wilson, where she spoke about some her master’s thesis work.
- UF DPM’s Extension Sessions continued with special guest Dr. Silvana Paula-Moraes.

MAY
- Last summer DPM student Heather Kalaman won a scholarship from the Orlando Gardening Club and returned May 21st, 2021 to present pollinator research she has accomplished since then.
Why did you choose to enroll in the DPM program?

During my BS, I established my desire for a hands-on training with opportunities to learn and practice practical skills related with agriculture in Soils, Entomology, Plant pathology and Horticultural sciences. My professional goals were focused on helping agriculture in my home country Ecuador. I knew that developing countries require professionals with knowledge and practical experience in multiple areas. I had the opportunity to visit and check the coursework of some graduate programs in the United States, though it took me one year before I realized that my professional goals and the DPM program were a perfect fit.

After graduation, what career paths/opportunities were available to you?

After graduation, the interdisciplinary training from DPM program was extremely valuable with career opportunities including research positions at universities and government institutions. The DPM coursework provides the students with an extensive network of professors and researchers with laboratories which generated multiple experiments and job recommendations. During the field trips, it was clear the high demand for DPM graduates probably because of the flexibility and adaptation to different areas.

What is your current occupation, and how has your DPM degree aided you in the tasks and responsibilities associated with your position?

Currently, I am a professor at the “Agrarian University” in Ecuador, and I teach undergraduate and graduate courses such as molecular biology and applied plant pathology as well as supervise research projects at the Research Institute. The DPM courses, laboratories, internships and projects provided the knowledge that allows me to review and approve agricultural projects related to soils management, entomology, plant pathology, molecular biology. Thanks to the DPM, I’m able to understand and collaborate with other colleagues in different disciplines. In matter of fact, with DPM Director support we were able to complete a collaborative agreement between University of Florida and my university in Ecuador. In addition, the DPM helped me as an agricultural extension specialist to effectively communicate research with farmers and institutions.

Are there any challenges that your DPM degree has helped you overcome?

The DPM degree assists me with my problem-solving approach on a daily basis. Agricultural specialists have a tendency to analyze problems from specific areas or disciplines. Then, each specialist will look for arguments within their scope and some may not even understand a different approach and this generates frustration. The interdisciplinary training obtained from DPM allowed me to understand and value each area and discipline providing a fair and to consider the opportunity to integrate different approaches, which is one of the most valuable skills from DPM Program.

Do you have any advice for current DPM students?

Your professional development and knowledge have so many options that you need a plan with multiple updates. You may never find a place with so much diversity and options. Classmates, professors and UF workers are one of the most valuable part of the program, make sure you take some time and learn with them. Include at least one class out of your comfort area each year, as it may change your habits and push your ideas in a different direction. Do not hesitate to ask for advice or an explanation for a process, but also keep searching for your own path in the program.
The 2nd Annual Plant Doctors and Plant Health Professionals Conference occurred virtually allowing participants who normally be available for an in-person event. Our keynote speaker Mike Aerts, presented on “The Florida Fruit and Vegetable Industry: Current Status and Future Opportunities”. In addition, we had a Round Table discussion on “Intractable Challenges to Food Security and Safety in Our Backyard” The panel included Hugh Smith, Eunett R. James-Mack, Robert C. Hochmuth, Trevor R. Smith and was moderated by Nicole Casuso & Tim Durham. We also want to thank last year’s sponsors: FMC, Syngenta, and Landback Agriculture for sponsoring the First Annual Conference of Plant Doctors and Plant Health Professionals.

Congratulations Hannah Talton who received the 2nd Annual Agrios Scholarship.

Mike Aerts, Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association

February Flora & Fauna Festival

This year our 2nd annual February Flora and Fauna festival (FFFF) was held virtually due to safety concerns of the ongoing pandemic. In lieu of a public festival the DPM student organization posted short clips on the FFFF YouTube channel. These videos provided information that students might talk with the public about plants and plant health.
External Advisory Committee

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

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

Gary HEIN
Doctor of Plant Health Director, University of Nebraska

Richard MiranDa
Florida State Plant Health Director, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

MADaLINE 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

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NICK DUFaULT
Department of Plant Pathology

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KIMBERLY MOORE
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School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

J. STaCy StriCKLAND
County Extension Director, Osceola County

XIN ZHAO
Horticultural Sciences Department

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Secretary

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Treasurer

HANNAH TALTON
Historian

ANDY JEAN-LOUIS
GSC Representative

AMANDA HODGES
Faculty Advisor

DPM Program Staff

AMANDA HODGES
DPM Director

ELENA ALyaNAtA
Academic Advisor I

MaRiThA RhoDES rOBERTs
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