

STATION NEWS

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION



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STATION NEWS
PUTTING SCIENCE TO WORK FOR SOCIETY

The mission of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is to develop, advance, and disseminate scientific knowledge, improve agricultural productivity and environmental quality, protect plants, and enhance human health and well-being through research for the benefit of Connecticut residents and the nation. Seeking solutions across a variety of disciplines for the benefit of urban, suburban, and rural communities, Station scientists remain committed to "Putting Science to Work for Society", a motto as relevant today as it was at our founding in 1875.



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

Departmental News

Administration	2
Analytical Chemistry	2
Biochemistry and Genetics	3
Entomology	3
Environmental Sciences	6

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Forestry and Horticulture	6
Plant Pathology and Ecology	8
Valley Laboratory	8
Journal Articles Approved	10





STATION NEWS

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

ADMINISTRATION

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI was interviewed about weather and the effects on insects and plants by Jan Spiegel of the Connecticut Mirror (April 3); welcomed Federated Garden Club members in Jones auditorium and gave a report on Station research (April 3); was interviewed about the Experiment Station by Scott Haney of Channel 3 TV (WFSB) (April 10); and attended the Experiment Station Associates Board meeting and gave a progress report on Station research and other activities (April 16).

ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

DR. JASON C. WHITE participated in the monthly Laboratory Preparedness Network meeting at the Department of Public Health in Hartford (April 2); participated in an FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (cCAP) Laboratory conference call (April 12); was interviewed by Robert Pollack for a CT Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) Research Update on the Department's USDA-funded nanotoxicology research project (April 13); attended a lecture at the University of New Haven by Robert MacCuspie, Ph.D. of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) entitled "Silver nanoparticle structure-property relationships for environmental health and safety studies" and met with Dr. MacCuspie to discuss potential collaborative research (April 18); spoke by phone with a Harvard University graduate student (Christine Abbott) on phytoremediation research and implementation (April 19); met with students and teachers from Middletown High School and presented the Department's food and safety programs (April 20) (35 attendees); met with Professor Erica Taylor of Wesleyan University and gave a tour of the Department laboratories (April 23); presented a lecture entitled "Food safety research in the Department of Analytical Chemistry-Surveillance of fresh and manufactured foods for chemical contamination" at the CAES Spring 2012 Open House (April 25) (9 attendees); and participated in a teleconference with the Arkansas Department of Public Health regarding ISO accreditation (April 25).

DR. BRIAN EITZER was interviewed by Bob Miller of the Danbury-News Times about the effects of pesticides on honey bees (April 12); participated in an FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (cCAP) Laboratory conference call (April 12); and served as a judge at the Future Farmers of America, Environmental Science Contest which took place at the University of Connecticut (April 27).

DR. WALTER KROL participated in an FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (cCAP) Laboratory conference call (April 12); presented a poster concerning the pesticide residue monitoring program in food in the State of Connecticut Capitol Corridor (April 26); and presided as Secretary at the New Haven Section American Chemical Society Executive Board Meeting (April 26).

DR. CHRISTINA ROBB participated in the North Branford High School Eco Fair (April 12); and participated in an FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (cCAP) Laboratory conference call (April 12).



STATION NEWS

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

BIOCHEMISTRY AND GENETICS

DR. DOUGLAS DINGMAN attended an evening meeting with Ted Jones (CT Beekeepers Assoc.) and Jason Morrill (Massaro Community Farm) regarding community outreach and research being conducted on bee colonies at Massaro Farm (Woodbridge, CT) (April 12); attended and participated in the CT Beekeepers Assoc. quarterly meeting (Hamden, CT) (April 14); attended a meeting with Mark Cooper (Director of Health; Westport Westin Health District) and Lauren Brooks (Dept. Ecol. Evol. Biol., Yale Univ.) to discuss procedural details for microbial source tracking experiments (New Haven, CT) (April 16); and presented a seminar entitled "Honey bee basics" to Avon Senior Citizens at the Avon Senior Center (Avon, CT) (April 30).

DR. NEIL P. SCHULTES delivered a lecture about "Genetically Modified Plants in Agriculture" to a Yale University course Sci031 "Current Topics in Science" (April 6); and along with **DR. RICHARD PETERSON** and **DR. PHILIP ARMSTRONG** helped plan and served as judges for the Sigma Xi sponsored Quinnipiac University First Annual Student Research Conference (April 19).

DR. RICHARD PETERSON attended the 29th annual Eastern Regional Photosynthesis Conference held over April 20-22, 2012 at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. He presented a poster entitled "Evidence That C3 Photosynthesis Precedes C4 Photosynthesis During Maize Leaf Development" authored by **DRS. RICHARD PETERSON, ISRAEL ZELITCH, and DR. NEIL SHULTES**. This event brings together several leading photosynthesis researchers from the Northeast US and Canada.

STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

A Student Research Conference sponsored by the Quinnipiac Chapter of Sigma Xi was held on April 19, 2012 at Quinnipiac University. Chapter Vice President **DR. RICHARD PETERSON** served as a judge in the competition and **DR. NEIL SCHULTES** helped organize the event and judged as well. Approximately 120 people, mostly students, were involved in the event. **DR. SCHULTES** presented awards to the winning projects. Immediately after the Conference **DR. PETERSON** introduced the guest speaker Dr. Christine Ortiz of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who spoke on "Mechanics of Musculoskeletal Tissue". That evening the Chapter hosted its annual Banquet attended by **DRS. PETERSON and SCHULTES**. **DR. PETERSON** presented the Chapter's Publication of the Year award to **DR. WADE ELMER** for his submission (co-authored by **DR. ROBERT MARRA**) of "New species of *Fusarium* associated with dieback of *Spartina alterniflora* in Atlantic salt marshes" published recently in the Journal Mycologia.

ENTOMOLOGY

MS. TIA M. BLEVINS participated in the 38th annual Horticultural Inspection Society, Eastern Chapter's meeting in Burlington, VT. As Treasurer, she presented the financial report to the members (April 16-19); and attended an information update session about Systems Approach to Nursery Certification at the Eastern Plant Board's 87th annual meeting (April 17).

MS. KATHERINE DUGAS, with **MS. ROSE HISKES**, participated in a conference call with Joan Allen, UConn, about Forest Pest Outreach (April 13).

MS. ROSE HISKES, with **MS. KATHERINE DUGAS**, participated in a conference call with Joan Allen, UConn, about Forest Pest Outreach (April 13); met with Don Bellingham, Director of Vernon Greenways Volunteers, to plan Asian longhorned beetle and Emerald ash borer surveys on the rail trails in Vernon (April 19); participated in a Forest Pest Project conference call (April 25); gave a talk on "Insect Pests of Plants" to Master Gardener Mentors at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford (April 25) (47 attendees).



STATION NEWS

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

DR. CHRIS MAIER displayed flower flies that are Batesian mimics of bumble bees at the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society in Jones Auditorium (April 27).

DR. CLAIRE E. RUTLEDGE spoke about insects with Ms. Lindley's pre-K 4's at King-Robinson School in New Haven (April 25) (19 youth attendees); and presented "An Update on Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Longhorned Beetle, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, and Spotted Wing *Drosophila*" to a Master Gardener's Hot Topics class in West Hartford (April 26) (86 adult attendees).



Jannat, Katie, Michael, Mason, and Lara show off their Asian Longhorned Beetle temporary tattoos at King-Robinson School in New Haven.

DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH, with **MR. PETER TRENCHARD**, hosted visitors from USDA to Imperial Nursery, Granby, to evaluate best management practices for *Phytophthora ramorum*. Anthony Man-Song Hing represented the USDA-APHIS *P. ramorum* program, Steve Oak represented USDA-Forest Service, Greg Parra represented USDA-APHIS-PPQ, and Kate Aitkenhead represented the Wallingford office of USDA-APHIS-PPQ (April 12); members of the Experiment Station Survey and Inspection Team attended the meetings of the Eastern Plant Board, Eastern Chapter of the Horticultural Inspection Society (HIS), and Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey, held at the Hilton on the Lake in Burlington, Vermont. Vicki Smith participated in the EPB meeting, as President, and gave talks on boxwood blight and chrysanthemum white rust. An informational table on boxwood blight was also presented. **MS. TIA BLEVINS** participated as the Treasurer of HIS, **MR. STEVE SANDREY** as HIS Archivist, and **MR. PETER TRENCHARD** presented a talk on Boxwood Blight. **MS. ROSE HISKES** participated in the CAPS meeting, as CT State Survey Coordinator (April 16-19) (approx. 85 attendees).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD III spoke about ticks and Lyme disease at the Gales Ferry Community Center (April 4) (5 attendees); was interviewed about tick activity related to the recent warm weather by Amanda Cuda of the Connecticut Post (April 10); was interviewed about ticks, Brown marmorated stink bug, and spotted wing *Drosophila* by Sam Gingerella of WTIC-Radio (April 11); was interviewed about the fungus *Metarhizium* for tick control by Susan Chaney of www.bestinshowdaily.com (April 13); presented a talk on ticks and tick management at the Earthplace nature center in Westport organized by the Westport Weston Health Department (April 14) (45 attendees); spoke on Lyme disease and tick-bite prevention for Department of Energy and Environment Safety Committee members at Sessions Woods Education Center in Burlington (April 18) (22 attendees); was interviewed about the Emerald ash borer discovered on the east side of the Hudson River by Craig Lemoult of WSHU-Public Radio (April 18); with **MS. HEIDI STUBER**, presented a display on ticks and Lyme disease for Biodiversity Day at the Yale Peabody Museum in New Haven (April 19) (1,280 attendees); presented a talk on ticks and Lyme disease at the annual meeting of the Old Saybrook Land Trust in Old Saybrook (April 24)



STATION NEWS

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

(21 attendees); attended the meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society in Jones Auditorium (April 27); and was interviewed for a video about ticks and Lyme disease for General Electric in Fairfield by Brian Russell of Red Shoe Film (April 30).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER presented a talk on "Pollination, honey bees, and wild bees" as part of Science Day at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village (April 5) (180 youths and 20 adults attended); taught three modules of the Connecticut Pollinator Conservation Short Course, sponsored by the Northeast SARE program, at the Tolland County Extension Center in Vernon. Modules taught were: "Common Bees at CT Vegetable Farms & Importance of Alternative Forage Sites on Farmland," "Pesticide Impacts on Bees," and "Case Study of Fort Hill Farm" (opportunities to provide resources for bees). Dr. Stoner assisted with other aspects of the course, providing specimens and responding to questions during the open laboratory (April 12) (45 attendees).

MS. TRACY ZARRILLO demonstrated how to make bee trap nests and answered questions regarding bees and pollinator plantings at the Xerces Pollinator Conservation Planning Short Course held at UConn's Tolland County Extension Center in Vernon (April 12) (45 attendees).



In appreciation for 5 years of service on the National Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Committee, USDA presented to Dr. Victoria Smith a silver coin, containing one troy ounce of silver and embossed with the CAPS theme art on one side and the USDA symbol on the other. The presentation was made at the Eastern Plant Board meeting, held at the Hilton on the Lake in Burlington Vermont (April 16-19).



STATION NEWS

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed about the impact of the spring drought on anticipated mosquito populations and West Nile virus by Jocelyn Maminta WTNH TV (April 2); was interviewed about the Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program and the impact of spring drought on anticipated mosquito populations and West Nile virus by Quannah Leonard, Waterbury Republican American (April 4); was interviewed about the Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program and the impact of spring drought on anticipated mosquito populations and West Nile virus by Sam Gingerella, WTIC Radio (April 11); was interviewed about the impact of the spring drought on anticipated mosquito populations and West Nile virus for Sabine Schoenberg's TV show "Homes & Estates" on Cablevision 88 (April 12); and hosted a day-long workshop and field trip on mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases for a group of 10 Connecticut high school science teachers as part of the Peabody Museums SEPA NIH Mosquito Biology Program (April 26).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE spoke on *Improving Soil in the Home Garden* to the Wethersfield Garden Club (April 4) (approx. 50 attendees). The talk was filmed for local TV (April 4); with **MS. JORDAN GIBBONS**, spoke on "*Invasive Aquatic Plants*" to two groups from Middletown High School (April 20) (approx. 30 attendees); was interviewed by Lillianna Vinan of the Yale Daily News on invasive aquatic plants in Connecticut (April 24); spoke on *Container Gardening Indoors and Out* at a garden seminar series given by the Cheshire Public Library (April 25) (approx. 30 attendees); and hosted a workshop (April 26)

MS. JORDAN GIBBONS spoke on *Applying Geographical Information Systems in a Science Career* to 80 students attending a GIS Networking Night at Westfield State University in Westfield, MA (April 3).

DR. GOUDARZ MOLAEI presented a seminar entitled on *A Genomic Bite of Mosquitoes* to CAES staff at the 11 O'clock Seminar Series (April 9).

MR. JOHN SHEPARD presented a hands-on display about mosquitoes and the Station's Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program for West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis at Biodiversity Day and the Peabody Museum (April 19, 1,280 museum visitors); presented information about mosquito biology and demonstrated various laboratory and field collection techniques to Connecticut teachers participating in the Yale-Peabody Fellows Program (April 26, 12 attendees).

MR. MICHAEL THOMAS presented a hands-on display about mosquitoes and the Station's Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program for West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis at Biodiversity Day and the Peabody Museum (April 19) (1,280 museum visitors); and presented information about mosquito biology and demonstrated various laboratory and field collection techniques to Connecticut teachers participating in the Yale-Peabody Fellows Program (April 26) (12 attendees).

FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE

DR. JEFFREY WARD invited Dr. Gary W. Miller to give a Lockwood Lecture on "SILVA – a stand analysis and prescription protocol". Dr. Miller is a Research Silviculturist for the USDA Forest Service - Northern Research Station in Morgantown, WV (April 2-3); served as Program Chair and session moderator at the 2012 New England Society of American Forester's annual meeting in Amherst, MA (April 4-6); visited the DuPont property in Bridgeport to advise Michael Taylor (Vita Nuova) and Thomas Stilley (DuPont Corporate Remediation) on invasive control strategies (April 11); interviewed about running bamboo by Christina Rose of the Bethel Patch (April 16); visited Peter Johnson in Guilford to advise on forest management on a Guilford Land Trust property (April 18); spoke on invasive plant control to reduce risk of exposure to Lyme disease at the Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center in Hampton (April



STATION NEWS

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

21) (37 attendees); participated in the CT Statewide Vegetation Management Task Force in Rocky Hill (April 24); was interviewed about controlling invasives to reduce the risk of exposure to Lyme disease by John Charlton of Fox-61 News (April 25); along with **DRS. JAMES LAMONDIS, CAROLE CHEAH, WALTER KROL,** and **ABIGAIL MAYNARD,** hosted an exhibit on innovative research by the Station in the Capitol Corridor in Hartford (April 26) (83 attendees); spoke on growing plants for visiting students from the Hamden Collaborative Learning Center (April 27) (6 students, 2 teachers); and meet with Christopher Reily, Providence Water, to discuss invasive plant control alternatives in Scituate, RI (April 30).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD discussed the New Crops Program with students and teachers from the Village for Families and Children (April 10) (10 students, 2 teachers); reviewed research projects with 11th grade students at Hamden Hall Country Day School (April 18) (14 students, 1 teacher); discussed the New Crops Program with students and teachers from Middletown High School (April 20) (36 students, 4 teachers); and discussed the New Crops Program with students and a teacher from the Hamden Collaborative Learning Center (April 27) (6 students, 2 teacher).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture in Hartford (April 5); met with Barry Wallett of Willington at Lockwood Farm to discuss a prospective vineyard and give a pruning demonstration (April 13); participated in a conference call meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Enology and Viticulture- Eastern Section (April 19); and gave a poster presentation, "Evaluation of New Winegrape Cultivars in Connecticut" at Plant Science Day in the Spring in Jones Auditorium (April 25).

DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS along with **MR. MICHAEL SHORT,** spoke to high school students at North Branford High School's Agricultural Career Development Day about research projects and employment at the Agricultural Experiment Station, North Branford, CT (April 12) (150 students); presented a research paper "Survival and Dispersal of Rehabilitated White-Tailed Deer Fawns in Connecticut, Year 2" at the 68th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, Charleston, WV (April 15-17) (67 attendees); gave students of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies a guided tour of the Town of Guilford's East River Preserve and spoke about overabundant deer impacts, Guilford, CT (April 19) (11 students).

MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY was presented with the Mollie Beattie Young Forester Leadership Award from the New England Society of American Foresters at the Annual Winter Meeting in Amherst, MA (April 5); moderated "Lightning Round" oral poster presentations at the New England Society of American Foresters at the Annual Winter Meeting in Amherst, MA (April 5); and completed the Connecticut Tree Protective Association course, Arboriculture 101 (April 11).



Image taken by Dr. Carole Cheah



STATION NEWS

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

PLANT PATHOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS worked with the Fairfield Garden Club, the Fairfield Tree Warden, and the Fairfield Conservation Commission to plant 100 timber chestnut trees, with about 97% American genes. These were planted on town land next to forested areas where the chestnuts will be able to naturalize. The Garden Club of America is celebrating its 100th anniversary, and this project is Fairfield's contribution to that celebration (April 20).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS was interviewed about boxwood blight and its impact on Connecticut growers and homeowners by Jan Spiegel of The Connecticut Mirror (April 4); gave a presentation on "Poisonous plants" for the Evening Branford Garden Club in the Branford Community Center (April 9) (17 adult attendees); was interviewed about the arborist law and arborist exam in Connecticut by Scot Haney of WFSB Channel 3 (April 10); attended and participated in the international "Royal Horticultural Society Boxwood Summit" held in London at the RHS Lawrence Hall and Conference Center. Dr. Douglas was one of 50 invited attendees from nine countries who gathered to discuss boxwood diseases and research needs (April 26) (50 adult attendees).

DR. WADE H. ELMER presented a talk titled "Role of plant disease and drought stress of *Spartina alterniflora* on herbivory by marsh crabs in salt marshes affected by Sudden Vegetation Dieback" at the spring meeting of the New England Estuarine Research Society in Plymouth, MA (April 13-14) (40 adult attendees); Dr. Elmer received the "Outstanding Paper of the Year" Award from the Quinnipiac University chapter of Sigma Xi for the paper titled "New species of *Fusarium* associated with dieback of *Spartina alterniflora* in Atlantic salt marshes," authored by Wade H. Elmer and Robert E. Marra, and published in *Mycologia* 103:806-819 (2011) (April 19).

MS. MARY K. INMAN participated in the Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network Meeting held in Rye Brook, NY (April 3 and 5) (25 attendees).

DR. YONGHAO LI gave a presentation titled "Highlights from the Plant Disease Information Office" at the Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network Meeting held in Rye Brook, NY (April 3-5) (25 adult attendees); spoke about plant disease diagnostics to a group of visiting students from Middletown High School (April 20) (30 attendees); and participated in a conference call for the Master's Degree exit exam and thesis defense of Jonathon Black at the University of Tennessee (April 23).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA met with Carol Youell, Natural Resource Administrator of the Metropolitan District Commission, to evaluate the causes of a decline syndrome occurring in a stand of pine trees alongside Lake McDonough in Barkhamsted (April 17); met with fellow Commissioners of the West Haven Tree Commission, to discuss plans for Arbor Day and the upcoming street tree sample inventory (April 23); and presented a poster on boxwood blight at the Spring Open House in Jones Auditorium (April 25).

VALLEY LABORATORY

DR. CAROLE CHEAH gave a joint presentation on the threat of elongate hemlock scale to hemlock sustainability with David Irvin of DEEP Forestry at the 2012 Northeast Forest Pest Council joint meeting with the New England Society of American Foresters at Amherst, MA (130) and submitted a joint poster on the red bark phenomenon with Dr. DeWei Li at the same meeting; hosted a tour of the Kenneth White Insectary and explained methods for rearing HWA predators to entomologists from the Maine Forest Service (April 5); and assisted in informing the legislators, members of the public and other stakeholders on the mission and activities of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at the Legislative Office Building/Capitol on (19 attendees) (April 26).



STATION NEWS

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Spotted Wing Drosophila" at Plant Science in the Spring, April 25, New Haven (25 attendees).

DR. JAMES LAMONDIA attended and participated in a meeting concerning pesticide residue issues conducted by Lancaster Leaf for broadleaf tobacco growers in Enfield (April 17) (65 attendees); answered questions about Station activities and research while manning a display at the Capital Corridor (April 26); and spoke to Jon Lender of the Hartford Courant about Station activities and boxwood blight (April 26).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH participated in a symposium planning meeting for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Laboratory (April 4) (10 attendees); and served on the Connecticut Nurserymen's Foundation scholarship committee as four student finalists were interviewed and two were selected as scholarship recipients at the Valley Laboratory (April 4) (14 attendees).



STATION NEWS

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

JOURNAL ARTICLES APPROVED APRIL 2012

- Anagnostakis, Sandra L.** Chestnut breeding in the United States for disease and insect resistance. Plant Disease
- Anderson, John F., S. McKnight, and Francis J. Ferrandino.** *Aedes japonicus japonicus* and associated woodland species attracted to CDC miniature light traps baited with carbon dioxide and the traptech mosquito lure. Journal of the American Mosquito Control Assn.
- Berger, William A. and Jason C. White.** Abstract: Effects of hydrogen peroxide on the uptake of PCBs by curcurbitadae. Conference: 9th International Phytotechnology Society Conference
- Elliott, George, Richard McAvoy, and **Martin P. N. Gent.** Sub-Irrigation systems. Greenhouse Grower Magazine
- Elmer, Wade H. and R. J. McGovern.** Epidemiology and management of Fusarium wilt of China asters. Crop Protection
- Ferrandino, Francis J.** Temporal moments of inoculum production and the initial infection rate. Analytical and Theoretical Plant Pathology
- Gent, Martin P. N. and Michael R. Short.** Effect on Yield and Quality of a Simple system to Recycle Nutrient Solution to Greenhouse Tomato. HortScience
- Halbrendt, J. and **James A. LaMondia.** Dagger nematodes and perennial fruit crops. Journal of Nematology (abstract)
- Krol, Walter.** The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Development and Implementation of Testing Methodology for the Reopening of Waters to Fishing. Quarterly Bulletin of the NH section of the ACS
- Li, De-Wei, Jingyuan Chen, and Yixun Wang.** Hophomycetes *Linodochium sinense* sp. nov. and new records from fallen leaves of *Sycopsis sinensis* in China. Mycotaxon
- Li, Yonghao.** Leaf mold of tomato. CAES Fact Sheet
- Li, Yonghao.** Bacterial spot of pepper. CAES Fact Sheet
- Li, Yonghao.** Early blight of tomato. CAES Fact Sheet
- Li, Yonghao.** Phytophthora blight of pepper. CAES Fact Sheet
- Smith, Victoria L.** Aerial survey: An assessment of forest health. Connecticut Arborist
- Williams, Scott C.** Impact of a Warm Winter on Deer Tick Abundance. Connecticut Timber Producers Newsletter

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*Putting Science to work
for Society.*



Entrance to The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven on Huntington Street



Main Laboratories, New Haven



Lockwood Farm, Hamden



Griswold Research Center, Griswold



Valley Laboratory, Windsor

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

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