

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at The University of Tennessee is to advance scientific knowledge and to assist stakeholders of Tennessee and the world in understanding and managing plant diseases and beneficial plant-associated microorganisms, bioactive phytochemicals, beneficial and pestiferous insects, and other arthropods in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner in appreciating the role of arthropods and plant pathogens in nature.

How we fulfill our mission

The Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology provides leadership in the generation and dissemination of knowledge on insects, related arthropods, and plant and animal diseases that affect the quality of life of all Tennesseans. It is the primary resource in the state which is available to meet these needs for the people of Tennessee and beyond and the only source dedicated to these needs alone. The departmental mission is fulfilled through discovery, development, application and dissemination of research-based information from the perspective of the land grant philosophy of teaching, research, Extension and other outreach. The faculty are committed to improving the quality of life of Tennesseans by promoting the beneficial aspects of insects and other organisms and mitigating the negative impacts that insects and plant pathogens have on food and fiber production, human and animal health, and quality of human life. The unique blend of discovery, development, application and dissemination of research-based information is designed to solve the entomological and plant health problems of our citizens in urban, rural, and industrial environments. The faculty are committed to developing and making available to the public, economically feasible and environmentally safe technologies and methodologies for minimizing damage caused by insects and plant and animal diseases.

Faculty, staff, and students recognize that the department draws its strength from their varied and extensive training and experience through cooperation among members of the department, with colleagues in entomology and plant pathology and in other disciplines both within the University and throughout the world. Departmental programs focus primarily on solving problems within Tennessee, yet draw on information generated worldwide and in turn provide information that is useful throughout the world.

Teaching The department teaching program provides enthusiastic, high quality, broadly-based instruction in entomology and plant pathology and their applications at both the undergraduate and graduate level. The undergraduate teaching program provides quality instruction pertaining to the needs and interests of students majoring in other disciplines. This instruction provides information and instills an appreciation for the relationships that exist among insects, plant pathogens, humans, and the environment. The graduate

teaching program prepares students for careers in entomology, plant pathology, and other fields by providing core instruction common to all scientists along with a customized program for each student focusing on knowledge of highly specialized areas within entomology and plant pathology. Research, computer, and oral and written communication skills are emphasized for all graduate students. Graduate students are encouraged to present research results at scientific meetings and to stakeholders when appropriate. Student attendance at meetings is frequently subsidized using departmental restricted funds.

Research Research programs within the department generate fundamental and applied information in entomology and plant pathology, elucidate and evaluate scientific principles, foster understanding and appreciation of biodiversity, and develop safe, economical and environmentally sound solutions to a plethora of problems. The department carefully maintains a blend of programmatic foci at the molecular, organismal, population, and community levels that includes theoretical and empirical studies within both natural and managed ecosystems.

Outreach Departmental outreach programs improve the quality of life for Tennesseans by assisting them in understanding agricultural, environmental, and social issues relating to entomology and plant pathology and the role of insects and plant diseases in the environment. Extension specialists identify and prioritize problems amenable to solution and assemble, adapt, and interpret relevant information. When knowledge needed to solve problems in Tennessee does not exist, Extension specialists conduct applied research to fill this void. Information is disseminated through the training and support of county Extension agents, other professionals, volunteers and other stakeholders using a combination of traditional and innovative communication methods.