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)

### Animal Health
- **B.S. or B.A.**
- **M.S. ± Thesis** (Technician or other)
- **Ph.D.** (Researcher, Professor)

### Plant Health
- **B.S. or B.A.**
- **M.S. ± Thesis** (Technician or other)
- **Ph.D.** (Researcher, Professor)

*Images: Pfizer, Illinois photo*
## CORE PLANT MEDICINE COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant Sciences</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entomology</td>
<td>19-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nematology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Pathology</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Agric. Law, Integrated Plant Medicine, etc.)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>70-71</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soil Science</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entomology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nematology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Pathology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.)
- $\geq 3.0$ ("B") grade point average
- $\geq 1000$ GRE (combined verbal + quantitative)
- $\geq 550$ (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
Esther Dunn Serrano
D.P.M. 12/05

Plant Disease Survey Specialist

USDA-APHIS/PPQ,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Adam Silagyi
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 Silagyi
D.P.M. 8/03 (“First DPM”)

L’Agence 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)
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.).