

PLANT SCIENCES WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – August 14, 2009

UC Davis Plant Breeding Academy expands to Europe

Building on the success of the Plant Breeding Academy in the United States, the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center is partnering with European companies, institutions and associations to offer the European Plant Breeding Academy, scheduled to start in March 2010. Like its U.S. counterpart, the European Plant Breeding Academy addresses the increased global demand for trained plant breeders by helping working professionals become fully trained plant breeders. Participants will meet in five countries for six six-day sessions over two years. The instructors are nationally and internationally recognized experts in plant breeding and seed technology. For more information, see <http://pba.ucdavis.edu> or contact Joy Patterson at jpatterson@ucdavis.edu, (530)752-4414 .

SBC scientists receive grant to support biotechnology for sustainability

Professor Kent Bradford, Director of the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center, and Jamie Miller, UC Discovery Fellow and assistant director of the SBC, have secured a grant from the American Society of Plant Biologists 2009 Grant Awards Program (GAP) for their project: Biotechnology for Sustainability: Building Resources for Public Education. "In order to sustain food, fiber and fuel production from plants indefinitely into the future while providing for the anticipated 9 billion people on the earth, we must apply the best science and use all the tools available," Bradford says. The grant will help develop informational materials that illustrate biotechnology's role in sustainability. Bradford notes, "Experience to date with biotech crops has clearly demonstrated their beneficial contributions to reducing pesticide use, promoting conservation tillage, reducing farm fuel use, and increasing yields." Bradford is one of five ASPB members who each received up to \$30,000 this year from the Society's Education Foundation to develop teaching ideas or outreach activities that effectively present and disseminate interesting topics in plant science.

Symposium toasts the legacy of Wolfskill

The Winters Horticultural Symposium on Aug. 26 will celebrate "The Legacy of John Reid Wolfskill," part of whose Mexican land-grant ranch is preserved as a UC Davis orchard experiment station. The program will begin with a 10 a.m. tour of the university's historic and productive Wolfskill property at 4334 Putah Creek Road. Professor Ted De Jong, pomologist and the station's director, will lead the tour, which will also take in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Clonal Germplasm Repository. Lunch is planned at the Buckhorn Steak & Roadhouse. The day's edibles also include olive oil tasting led by Dan Flynn, director of the UC Davis Olive Center, which produces UC Davis-branded oil from the fruit of trees that John Wolfskill planted in the 1860s. For registration and more information, see <http://wintershorticulturalsymposium.eventbrite.com>

Gala opening for Yolo County Fair

Be the first to enjoy the sights, flavors and bounty of the Yolo County Fair at the Opening Night Gala on Wednesday, August 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ag Business Building. Wines, produce, olive oil and honey will be among the goodies available for tasting. Tickets are \$15 and \$10 in advance, which you can buy at the Fair Office or on campus by contacting Sue DiTomaso at scwebster@ucdavis.edu

Seminars/Conferences/Field Days

Protein analysis research software

Aug. 17, 11:45 a.m. PRB

Enjoy a pizza lunch and learn of Geneious, a DNA and protein analysis research software that makes bioinformatics accessible to any biologist (www.geneious.com), 11:45 a.m. to 1 at the PRB Conference Room, Plant Reproductive Biology Building, Extension Center Circle. More info contact: Kathy Bess at klbess@ucdavis.edu

Quality aspects of whole and sliced tomato

August 17, Noon at 3001 PES

Speaker Ernst Woltering (Wageningen University) will discuss topics such as a micro-array approach to finding genes involved in tomato flavor volatiles, effects of cultivation and postharvest conditions on tomato quality, and understanding the basis of rapid quality loss in sliced/diced tomato products. For more information, contact host Cai-Zhong Jiang, cjiang@ucdavis.edu

International Plant Nutrition Colloquium

August 26-30, UC Davis

The 16th annual International Plant Nutrition Colloquium to be held in Sacramento from Wednesday, August 26 through Sunday, August 30. "Plant Nutrition for Sustainable Development and Global Health," hosted by the Department of Plant Sciences and CA&ES, will highlight advances in fundamental and applied plant nutrition, and emphasize the role of plant nutrition in food systems and environmental sustainability. For more information, visit <http://ipnc.ucdavis.edu/>.

Weed Science School 2009

September 21-23, UC Davis

Weed Science School is an intensive 2-1/2 day course focusing on the mode and mechanism of herbicide activity in plants and the fate of herbicides in the environment. The school is designed for those involved in consulting, research, development, or sales of agricultural chemicals. Emphasis is on herbicides registered for use in California and important weeds within the state. Course fee is \$550 for those who register before September 4 and \$600 after that date. Fee includes handout materials, refreshments and lunch each day. Class size is limited. For more information, visit <http://wric.ucdavis.edu> or contact the UC Weed Research & Information Center at wric@ucdavis.edu or (530)752-1748.

Fresh-cut Products Workshop

September 22-24, UC Davis

The UC Davis Postharvest Technology Research & Information Center offers its 14th annual Fresh-cut Products: Maintaining Quality & Safety, September 22-24 at UC Davis. This three-day course will inform food professionals of underlying principles that govern fresh-cut produce quality while providing practical tools for application in the processing plant. Topics include product biology, quality and preparation; temperature management; microbiology; modified atmospheres; and marketing and consumer issues. There will be product demonstrations and material on the biology of taste and aroma and how to set up a sensory panel to evaluate product quality. The \$1050 fee includes all program handouts, lunch and morning and afternoon snacks each day. For more information see <http://postharvest.ucdavis.edu/Announce/freshcut.shtml> or contact Pam Devine, (530) 752-6941, pwdevine@ucdavis.edu

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS/SCHOLARSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

For more information on funding opportunities, go to OVCR's Web site at

<http://www.research.ucdavis.edu/home.cfm?id=OVC,0,1154>

Saratoga Horticultural Research Endowment

The Saratoga Horticultural Research Endowment invites representatives of California institutions of higher learning and California horticultural organizations to submit proposals for funding from the endowment for the period of October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010. The maximum project award will be \$15,000. Send proposals via email to lldodge@ucdavis.edu no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2009. For details, see http://groups.ucanr.org/Saratoga/Call_for_Proposals/

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology

The Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) awards Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology to recent recipients of the doctoral degree for research and training in selected areas of biology supported by BIO and with special goals for human resource development in biology. The fellowships encourage independence at an early stage of the research career to permit Fellows to pursue their research and training goals in the most appropriate research locations regardless of the availability of funding for the Fellows at that site. Submission deadline is Oct. 14. For more information, see [Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology \(PRFB\)](#)

Fresh-cut mangos

The National Mango Board (NMB) has issued a request for proposal for research recognizing fresh-cut mangos as a value-added product. Submission deadline is August 28. For complete details on the project's objectives and criteria, contact: Leonardo Ortega, Director of Research

National Mango Board

P.O. Box 140903

Orlando, FL 32803

Tel: (877) Mangos-1 (626-4671)

Tel: (407) 629-7318 ext:104 Fax: (407) 629-7593

Cell: (254) 595-1060

www.mango.org

Job Opportunities

New Listings

Staff Research Associate I, (with opportunity for advancement)

University of California Cooperative Extension, Fresno County, is looking for a staff research associate to assist with planning, performance, and analysis of field research and education activities to help develop chemical/non-chemical options for weed management in crop and non-crop situations in Fresno County and elsewhere as appropriate. Requirements include a bachelor's degree or equivalent combination of education and experience in weed science, plant science, or related field, and familiarization with pesticide rate calculations, sprayer calibration, and experimental design and statistics. Applications must be submitted by October 1, 2009. Apply at <https://jobs.ucop.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1204226194987> Job numbers is 20090257. For more information, contact

Kurt Hembree, Farm Advisor

UC Cooperative Extension, Fresno County

(559) 456-7285 <http://cefresno.ucdavis.edu>

Field Research Biologist

SynTech Research Mexico is seeking a field research biologist to work in Central Mexico to help with various projects including: plan, design and execute Good Laboratory Practices Studies; select sites for conducting trials and apply all necessary agronomic practices; take soil samples and plant samples; spray various pesticides, regulators and fertilizers for pest/weed control; manage irrigation and applications of plant food and crop protection pesticides. Requirements include a M.S. in Agricultural sciences (preference in Pest Management, Agronomy, Plant Sciences, Soil Science, Weed Science, Entomology, Plant Pathology, Pesticide residue, soil science and Seeds). Preference will be given to those with experience in testing agrochemical and seeds products in Agricultural or Environmental Sciences. Email resume to Dr. K. Khodayari, khosro@syntechresearch.com

Repeat Listings

Postdoc Researcher – Genetics & Genomics of Tree Fruit & Nut Crops

The UC Davis Plant Sciences Department has an opening for a Postdoctoral Researcher, based in Davis. This position, in the area of molecular genetics and genomics, is available immediately for a twelve-month term with renewal subject to performance. The successful candidate will provide expertise in linkage and QTL mapping and molecular marker development for important traits in stone fruit with particular focus on peach and almond. These traits include postharvest physiological disorders, nutritional quality and disease resistance. The candidate will curate and adapt newly developed and existing molecular markers to the peach and almond breeding programs of UC Davis, maintain good collaboration with local (in the Department of Plant Sciences and other Departments within UC Davis), national and international stone fruit researchers, and conduct research that will enhance the competitive advantage of the California fruit and nut industry in the global market. For further information, contact Dr. Carlos H. Crisosto, University of California, Kearney Agricultural Center, 9240 S. Riverbend Avenue, Parlier, CA 93648. Fax: (559) 646-6593; E-mail: carlos@uckac.edu. To apply, send letter of interest and CV, via email preferred.

Junior Specialist

The UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences is looking for a junior specialist to work primarily on livestock grazing and rangeland research project with responsibility for leading field operations, sampling and tracking of 2-3 ongoing projects. This would involve field work with large animals, designing and setting up fences, calculating forage requirements, collecting plant samples, measuring botanical composition, separating plants and seeds from soils, purchasing and delivering fencing material, and driving to Hopland and several field sites in central and northern California. This position also includes supervising undergraduate student lab assistants, organizing and entering data into spreadsheets, doing simple statistical analyses, and drafting reports and manuscripts. Bachelor's degree in an agricultural field (preferably in animal or range science), experience handling livestock and managing livestock grazing, good writing skills, basic data entry skills and a valid driver's license. Must be able to work long field hours and weekends during peak field times. Ability to lift 50 lbs and to work in the field and hike up to 3 miles when it is extremely hot. Salary is \$2806/month with benefits and the beginning date is as soon as possible. It's a six-month appointment with a possibility of extension to two years. Please submit resume to:

Dr. Emilio Laca

Dept. of Plant Sciences / Mail Stop 1

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