

**TOPICS OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS-**

**Chestnut Blight/Butternut Canker**  
Dr. Sandra L. Anagnostakis



Dr. Anagnostakis bagging chestnut flowers.

**Fusarium Diseases/Sudden Vegetation Dieback of Salt Marshes**  
Dr. Wade H. Elmer



Dr. Elmer with research "salt marsh" in the greenhouse.

**Modeling of Disease Epidemics/Powdery Mildew of Grape**  
Dr. Francis J. Ferrandino



Dr. Ferrandino in research vineyard.

**Neonectria Canker of Black Birch**  
Dr. Robert E. Marra



Dr. Marra examining tree with cankers.

**Aerial Dispersal of Spores and Pollen in the Atmosphere**  
Dr. Donald E. Aylor (Emeritus Scientist)



Field of corn for pollen dispersal studies.

**Scientists disseminate and publish their research findings in scientific journals, in Station publications, and at professional meetings.**

**Technicians:** Mary K. Inman, Pamela Sletten, and Peter Thiel

**Administrative Assistant:** Sandra E. Carney

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Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology  
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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*Manage plant health problems using innovative methods to protect the environment and ensure a healthy landscape and a safe food supply.*

The Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology conducts research on diseases of many types of plants important to the residents of Connecticut. We diagnose plant health problems for growers and for the public. Our goal is to expand and integrate knowledge of ecological interactions of plants, pathogens, and their environment to develop sustainable management strategies for plant pathogens with minimal use of pesticides.

## **SERVICE AND RESEARCH**

Scientists in the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology are involved in both **service and research activities**. Our service efforts focus on diagnosis of plant health problems and outreach programs for non-professionals and professionals in Connecticut. Our research efforts include original and basic investigations in many areas of plant pathology.

## **SERVICE:**

A major component of the department involves service to the public. Our objective is to assist all Connecticut residents, including homeowners, plant care professionals, and commercial growers, with diagnosing plant health problems.

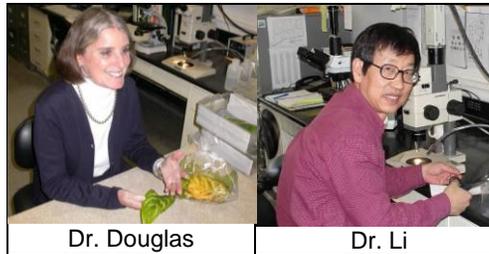
## **1. Disease Diagnosis-**

Dr. Sharon M. Douglas (Department Head)  
Dr. Yonghao Li

**Plant Disease Information Office-**  
(203.974.8601)

[www.ct.gov/caes/pdio](http://www.ct.gov/caes/pdio)

Disease diagnosis involves visual assessment and microscopic examination of affected plants. When necessary, procedures such as culturing causal agents on selective media and conducting serological and molecular tests are performed. We are a member of the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN). This network was created to enhance national agricultural security and protect the United States from intentional or unintentional introduction of exotic pests and pathogens.



## **Seed Testing-**

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is the official seed testing laboratory for the state. Our department cooperates with the Bureau of Regulation and Inspection of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture to test vegetable, crop, and lawn seeds. This program protects state residents from purchasing inferior seed and ensures that seeds comply with the Connecticut Seed Law

Regulations and the Federal Seed Act.



## **Plant Pathogens of Regulatory Concern-**

The department works closely with the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Plant Protection and Quarantine (APHIS-PPQ) on plant pathogens of high consequence or of regulatory concern for Connecticut and the United States. Examples include Chrysanthemum White Rust, Ramorum Blight (a.k.a. Sudden Oak Death), Plum Pox, and Ralstonia Wilt.

## **2. Outreach-**

Our outreach efforts include publishing fact sheets and web-based information, workshops, and presentations for grower groups, garden and horticultural clubs, special interest groups, and students. All members of the department participate in outreach activities.

## **RESEARCH:**

The Department conducts original research focused on maximizing plant health. Topics include the ecology and genetics of plant pathogens, epidemiology of new and emerging diseases, and models for predicting the spread of plant pathogens. These studies address the needs of our stakeholders and consumers.