

Department of
CROP AND SOIL SCIENCE

Crop and Soil Science (CSS) faculty and staff are located in Corvallis, branch experiment stations and county extension offices across the state. CSS aspires to lead in creation, application and distribution of scientific knowledge specific to crops and soils, contributing to the cycle of life encompassing soil, plant, atmosphere, water, animals and humans. Our mission is to develop high quality resilient crops, identify and enhance sustainable agroecosystems, and understand soils in working and natural landscapes, leading to the improved health and well-being of communities facing a changing climate.

Degree Programs

Undergraduate

Crop and Soil Sciences (On-campus and Ecampus)

Graduate

Crop Science | M.S. | Ph.D.

Plant Breeding and Genetics | M.S. | Ph.D.

Soil Science | M.S. | Ph.D.

Focus Areas

- Agronomy
- Soil Science
- Plant Breeding and Genetics

Experiential Learning Opportunities

All students majoring in Crop and Soil Science, regardless of option, are required to complete an internship or a research project. During the internship or project, students apply the science and theory learned in courses to real world situations.

Other experiential learning programs include:

- Organic Growers Club
- Work in CSS Research Labs and Field Research Programs
- Soil Health Lab
- Study Abroad

Faces of AgSci



“ I’m fascinated by food-producing crops, and I have a desire to learn more about how these plants work, both at the level of plant physiology, and up to the whole farm ecosystem level.

Tessa Barker, ASHS and ISHS member

Read more at agsci.oregonstate.edu

CROP AND SOIL SCIENCE AT A GLANCE

16



Faculty

78



Undergraduate Students

44

Graduate Students

Research

2022 Research Expenditures: \$7,617,009

Research Focus Areas:

- Crop Breeding and Genetics
- Biology and Management of Insect and Slug Pests
- Seed Crop Production Systems and Ecology
- Soil Health
- Soil Carbon and Climate Change
- Organic Crop Production Systems
- Precision Agriculture
- Soil Water Quality
- Seed Technology
- Small Farms and Community Food Systems
- Soil Nutrient Management

The Future of Crop and Soil Science

Faculty in CSS are entrepreneurs in learning and investigative discovery having created OSU's Sustainability double-degree program, laid the foundations for the Global Hemp Innovation Center, and launched the nation's first online degree programs in Agronomy and Soil Science. The department seeks to build on and complement existing strengths and to expand the scope of our efforts while establishing commitments to inclusive excellence. Crop breeding and genetics programs in CSS develop varieties resilient to abiotic and biotic stress, and serve as a foundational component of climate-smart agriculture in the state. Future programs will create and use innovative tools in phenomics, genomics, and novel approaches in achieving these goals. CSS has begun creation of a team to work on site-specific management of crops, pests, and soils, and to use sensing technology and geospatial analysis of the landscape for implementation of digital agriculture systems in Oregon and beyond.

Extension Highlights

CSS is active in extension and outreach efforts with diverse programs essential to the lives of many Oregonians. These include:

- Oregon Seed Certification
- OSU Seed Lab
- OSU Soil Health Lab
- OSU Small Farms Program
 - Agricultural Tourism
 - Beginning Farmers
 - Dry Farming
 - Organic Agriculture
 - Whole Farm Management

