



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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Valley Laboratory
153 Cook Hill Road
P.O. Box 248
Windsor, CT 06095-0248
860.683.4977
Fax: 860.683.4987
portal.ct.gov/caes

PRESS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Dr. DeWei Li
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
(CAES)
Valley Laboratory
860-683-4979
dewei.li@ct.gov

Dr. James LaMondia
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
(CAES)
Valley Laboratory
860-683-4982
james.lamondia@ct.gov

CAES Resumes Nematode Plant Parasitic Nematode Diagnostic Services

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is pleased to announce the resumption of plant parasitic nematode diagnostic services. Plant parasitic nematodes cause over \$3 billion in crop losses annually in the United States. These microscopic roundworm parasites can injure plant roots, stems, leaves, and seeds and are difficult to diagnose as symptoms often include stunting, loss of vigor, reduced root function and poor nutrient uptake. Nematodes of regulatory concern can result in loss of markets. These diagnostic services were temporarily reduced due to the retirement of key staff but will again resume at the CAES Valley Laboratory. This work will be conducted by Ms. Michelle Salvas. Ms. Salvas, who has a Master of Science degree in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, has worked on nematode research with CAES nematologist Dr. LaMondia for over 15 years and is proficient in sampling, extraction and identifying nematodes. This June she participated in the advanced week-long intensive course 'Identification of Plant Parasitic Nematodes' presented by the National Plant Protection Organization at Wageningen University in the Netherlands to focus on nematode taxonomy at both the genus and species level. The course was taught by nematode taxonomist Professor Gerrit Karssen. Nematode diagnostic services are being conducted in addition to her ongoing research responsibilities. Her contact information is: Michelle.Salvas@CT.gov and 860-683-4977.

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