

Dr. Damon Smith, Assistant Professor



**B.S., SUNY, College at
Geneseo, 2001**

**M.S., North Carolina
State University, 2004**

**Ph.D., North Carolina
State University, 2007**

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Extension Program (75%):

My extension efforts focus on generating, evaluating, and disseminating solutions to many of the disease problems associated with turfgrass, pecan, grapes, and other horticultural commodities. Information and potential solutions to disease problems are evaluated using applied research. Field studies include station and on-farm research to test epidemiological models, conduct pesticide evaluations, and improve the practical and biological

understanding of various plant pathogens. I work closely with county extension agents and educators, agribusinesses, and commodity groups to improve the management of the major diseases affecting horticulture commodities. I am responsible for developing disease management fact sheets and outreach courses. I also conduct Master Gardener Workshops focused on Plant Pathology at the request of county educators.

Research (25%):

My research interests focus on the biology, epidemiology, and management of diseases of turfgrass, pecan, and grape. The information generated from my research directly services my extension program. This information is used to develop disease advisories and improve already existing advisory systems. Reducing or eliminating fungicide applications through the use of disease advisories is profitable for the grower, and is a positive step toward sustainability in 21st century agriculture. Many valuable disease advisories and forecasting systems have already been developed and could be more widely implemented through the use of modern technologies. With the aid of increasingly inexpensive forms of technology, disease advisories will be dramatically improved. I want to be on the forefront of the development of new advisories and forecasting systems.

About me:

I am a native of Western New York and was raised in the heart of the Finger Lakes Region. Throughout my younger years I was actively involved in the Boy Scouts of America and achieved the Rank of Eagle Scout. I continue to be involved in Boy Scouts and help as needed. I also am a co-advisor to the OSU Shotgun Sports Club. I enjoy shooting clay target games in my free time. I also am an active runner, hiker, and camper and enjoy many other outdoor activities in my free time.
