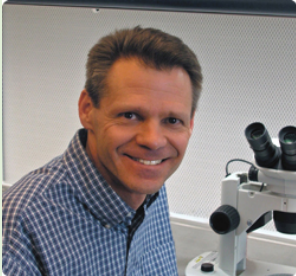


HORT 485/486 Horticulture Senior Capstone

By Bill Hoch



Students in the Horticulture Senior Capstone course, PSPP 425/427, work in teams to examine contemporary issues in the green industry. During the fall and spring semesters of their senior year, student teams review scientific literature, develop a systematic investigative approach, perform experiments, analyze data and submit a final research report in May.

This year's teams are investigating a variety of topics, including: the combined use of entomopathogenic fungi and a parasitoid to control aphids in the greenhouse, the potential of a bio-nutritional additive to reduce fertilizer use in greenhouse and nursery container production, the effects of modifying media, nutrient solution and pulse timing on hydroponic production of lettuce, and identifying factors affecting the segregation of turfgrass colonies in sod production. The course concludes with teams presenting their findings to the class and submitting a written research report. This is the third year of this course, and projects from previous years have been presented at the American Society for Horticulture Science annual meetings and have resulted in one peer-reviewed publication.