

MSU Departmental Assessment Plan 2009-2010

Department: Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology

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Degrees/Majors/Options Offered by Department

List here

Plant Sciences major

 Crop Science option

 Plant Biology option

Environmental Horticulture major

 Environmental Horticulture Science option

 Landscape Design option

Biotechnology major

 Plant Biotechnology option

Sustainable Food and Bioenergy Systems major

 Sustainable Crop Production option

Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology
Assessment and Outcomes Progress 2010

The Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology (PSPP) has assessment plans for each major/option offered (Environmental Horticultural Science, Landscape Design, Plant Biology, Crop Science, and Biotechnology—Plant Systems). Over the last year significant progress has been made in addressing goals in each of the plans.

In the Environmental Horticulture option, PSPP 431 (Tough Plants in Tough Places) was offered for the first time in Fall '09. This was the last new course that was added as part of the change to the Environmental Horticulture Science major. Also, we added a group advising meeting in February to get students started on their Internship paperwork, which gives them more time to identify and contact their Internship cooperators, and adequate time to complete their applications before the deadline in April. Finally, discussions among the faculty have indicated that upper division students appear to have a better foundation in basic horticultural science than they had five years ago, suggesting that the revision in the curriculum is having the desired effect.

The curriculum for the Landscape Design option also appears to be working well, with all the new courses now being taught.

In Biotechnology, MSU has been working to establish a joint biotechnology degree with Ankara University (Turkey). The idea would be that students spend two years at Ankara U (including the first) and two years at MSU, including their senior year.

Minor adjustments have been made in the Plant Biology and Crop Science options, but the major issue that was discussed is how the change in course numbering and rubric will affect class enrollment. We suspect that several classes that have been eschewed by students due to the PSPP rubric may now become much more popular, and instructors are preparing for a possible significant increase in class size.

We have continued to annually assess advising using our internally designed survey form. Student responses indicate a high degree of satisfaction with student advising.