

# NICHOLAS C. GOLTZ

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## EDUCATION

- 2021                      Doctor of Plant Medicine (DPM)  
*University of Florida*
- 2017                      BS, Entomology and Nematology, Biosecurity specialization,  
*University of Florida*

## Professional Experience

### **Authorship (Refereed)**

- Goltz, N.C., Awad, J., Moore, M., Talamas, E. 2020. A fortuitous find: a unique haplotype of *Ooencyrtus nezarae* Ishii (Encyrtidae: Encyrtinae) discovered in Florida. *Biodiversity Data Journal*. 8:e36440. <https://doi.org/10.3897/BDJ.8.e36440>
- Goltz, N.C., 2021. Common Abiotic Disorders of Ornamental Plants. University of Maine Cooperative Extension Publication
- Goltz, N.C., 2021. Too Much Water or Not Enough Light? Irregular Growth Commonly Seen on Plants Grown Indoors. University of Maine Cooperative Extension Publication
- Penca, C., Goltz, N. C., Hodges, A. C., Leppla, N. C., Eger, J. E., and Smith, T. R. 2022. Use of Pyriproxyfen to Induce Oogenesis in Diapausing *Megacopta cribraria* (Heteroptera: Plataspidae), and Evaluation of Pyriproxyfen-Induced Eggs for Rearing the Parasitoid *Paratelenomus saccharalis* (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae). *Insects*. 13:89. <https://doi.org/10.3390/insects13010089>

### **Authorship (Non-Refereed)**

- Concklin, M., Ghimire, S., **Goltz, N.**, Legrand, A., Pundt, L., Raudales, R., and Wallace, V. 2022. Connecticut Integrated Pest Management Program Annual Report 2021. Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. 26 pp.
- Goltz, N.C., 2022 Diagnostic Summary Report. Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. 52 pp.
- Goltz, N.C., NEERA Annual Meeting – CT IPM Report. Submitted March 31, 2023

- Goltz, Nicholas C. “Be on the lookout for root-knot nematodes” *Fine Gardening Magazine*, Jun. 2023, Issue 211. pp. 18-19.
- Goltz, Nicholas C. “Dealing with certain plant death due to verticillium wilt” *Fine Gardening Magazine*, 2023 (In Press)
- Goltz, Nicholas C. “Understanding Sudden Oak Death” *Fine Gardening Magazine*, Apr. 2023, Issue 210. pp. 26-27.
- Goltz, N.C., “Dandelions: from Famine Food to Fabulous Forage”. *University of Connecticut Ladybug Blog*. <https://uconnladybug.wordpress.com/>
- Goltz, Nicholas C. “Common Vascular Diseases of Plants – Verticillium Wilt and Botryosphaeria Dieback” *The Chronicle*, 19 April. 2023
- Goltz, N.C. 2022. “A Look into the Life of a Plant Pathologist – ‘Culturing’ Pathogens”. *University of Connecticut Ladybug Blog*. <https://uconnladybug.wordpress.com/>
- Goltz, Nicholas C. “Check for Black Spot of Roses Before June Blooms!” *The Chronicle*, 11 May. 2022.
- Goltz, N.C. 2022. “Considering Conifers”. *University of Connecticut Ladybug Blog*. <https://uconnladybug.wordpress.com/>
- Goltz, N.C. 2022. “Considering Conifers 2”. *University of Connecticut Ladybug Blog*. <https://uconnladybug.wordpress.com/>
- Goltz, Nicholas C. “From watering via ice cubes to spritzing with hydrogen peroxide – 4 misguided plant health trends on social media.” *The Conversation*, 16 Aug. 2022. <https://theconversation.com/from-watering-via-ice-cubes-to-spritzing-with-hydrogen-peroxide-4-misguided-plant-health-trends-on-social-media-184423>
  - Japanese translation (2023) available at <https://biotonique.jp/>
- Goltz, N.C. 2022. “Getting Ready for Spring Planting? Reduce Seed-Borne Diseases with a Hot Water Seed Treatment!” *University of Connecticut Ladybug Blog*. <https://uconnladybug.wordpress.com/>
- Goltz, N.C. 2022. “Identifying the Many Forms of Insect Feeding.” *University of Connecticut Ladybug Blog*. <https://uconnladybug.wordpress.com/>
- Goltz, Nicholas C. “Jumping Worms: Wriggling to a Garden Near You.” *Fine Gardening Magazine*, Aug. 2022, Issue 206. pp. 32–33.
- Goltz, N.C. 2022. “On Hostas and Houseplants.” *University of Connecticut Ladybug Blog*. <https://uconnladybug.wordpress.com/>

- Goltz, Nicholas C. "Pestalotiopsis Fungi: Are Your Conifers at Risk?" *Fine Gardening Magazine*, Dec. 2022, Issue 208. pp. 24-26.
- Goltz, N.C. 2022. "Preparing CT Bee Colonies for Spring Weather Events". *University of Connecticut Ladybug Blog*. <https://uconnladybug.wordpress.com/>
- Goltz, Nicholas C. "Root Rot Pathogens Love Wet Weather." *The Chronicle*, 28 Oct. 2022.
- Goltz, Nicholas C. "Scout for Beech Leaf Disease in Early August." *The Chronicle*, 5 Aug. 2022.
- Goltz, Nicholas C. "Scout for Fireblight Cankers in Late Winter." *The Chronicle*, 4 Mar. 2022.
- Goltz, N.C. 2021. "A New Holiday Hobby." *University of Connecticut Ladybug Blog*. <https://uconnladybug.wordpress.com/>
- Goltz, N.C. 2021. "Handy Home Diagnostic Guide to Key Pests and Diseases of Boxwoods." *University of Connecticut Ladybug Blog*. <https://uconnladybug.wordpress.com/>
- Goltz, N.C. 2021. "Help Protect Connecticut's Boxwoods!" *University of Connecticut Ladybug Blog*. <https://uconnladybug.wordpress.com/>
- Goltz, N.C. 2021. "Too Much Summer Rain for You? You're Not Alone..." *University of Connecticut Ladybug Blog*. <https://uconnladybug.wordpress.com/>

### **Active Grants**

- \$25,000 *Awarded*: North Central Plant Diagnostic Network. PTE Federal Award No.: 2021-37621-35788; Subaward Number: RC112910R (PI)
- \$643,234 *Awarded*: Extension Implementation Program. USDA-NIFA-CPPM-008055 (Co-PI; \$46,500 for UConn Plant Diagnostic Lab)
- \$178,000 *Awarded*: Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network. PTE Federal Award No.: 2022-37621-38276; Subaward Number: UMS1421 (PI)

### **Not Awarded/Pending**

- \$200,000 *Not awarded*: Investigating the interactions of plant nutrient levels and disease presence in deciduous fruit crops using drone-imagery-driven predictive modeling. USDA-NIFA-CPPM-ARDP (Co-PI)
- \$2,171,260 *Not Awarded*: IPM strategies for insect, disease and weed problems of cole crops in conventional and organic production systems. USDA-NIFA-SCRI-009081 (Co-PI)

- \$2,693,081 *Pending*: Brassica IPM in Diversified Northeastern Production Systems (Co-PI)

### **Membership & Affiliations**

- American Phytopathological Society (2019-present)
- Bee Campus USA – UConn (2021-present)
- Connecticut Horticultural Society – Member of Board of Directors (2021-present)
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – UConn committee; member representing department of Plant Science & Landscape Architecture (2021-present)
- National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) – Proficiency Committee Vice-Chair (2022-2023); Chair (2023-present)
- National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) – Northeastern Plant Diagnostic network (NEPDN) (2021-present)
- *Plant Disease* editorial board member – note assigning editor (2022-present)
- PSLA Recruitment Committee Member (2023-present)
- PSLA Social Committee – Co-chair (2022-present)

### **Teaching Experience**

- CT Master Gardener Program – Plant Pathology lectures, UConn 2021- present
  - Deliver instructional material related to biology and identification of bacterial, fungal, Oomycete, phytoplasma, and viral plant pathogens, as well as nematodes, parasitic plants and abiotic disorders. Approximately 150 students attend the lectures each spring (~30 students/lecture, 5 lectures/year)
- CT Pesticide Applicator Certification Course – Plant Pathology, Entomology, UConn 2021-present
  - Deliver instructional material related to biology and identification of bacterial, fungal, Oomycete and viral plant pathogens, as well as nematodes, insects and abiotic disorders. Approximately 180 students attend the lectures each year (~45 students/lecture, 2 lectures in spring, 2 lectures in fall)
- Guest Lecturer – Various courses, UConn 2021-present
  - Provides guest lectures (“Plant Disease Diagnosis”) for various courses at UConn including Fundamentals of Plant Pathology, Introduction to the Horticulture of

- Cannabis, Plant Pest Control, and Small Fruit Production. Fundamental triage and disease identification skills are presented to students
  - Provides guest lecture (“Introduction to Nematology”) for Fundamentals of Plant Pathology and guest lab (“Nematode Extraction and Identification”)
- Instructed PLP 3002C - Fundamentals of Plant Pathology Lab, UF Fall 2018
  - Fostered student content comprehension and laboratory skill development (microscopy, dissection, pathogen identification, etc.)
  - Delivered weekly lectures of course content
  - Developed instructional material related to fungal, viral, and bacterial plant pathogens and sequencing (PCR, gel electrophoresis, BLAST)
  - Graded students’ coursework and exams
- Teaching Assistant for PLP6291 – Plant Disease Diagnosis, UF 2020-2021
  - Fostered student content comprehension and laboratory skill development (microscopy, dissection, pathogen identification, etc.)
  - Facilitated discussions, graded coursework, provided written feedback
- Teaching Assistant for PLP6942 – Plant Disease Clinic Internship, UF 2020-2021
  - Fostered student content comprehension and laboratory skill development (microscopy, dissection, pathogen identification, etc.)
  - Taught fundamental triage and disease identification skills to students
  - Graded coursework, provided written feedback

### **Extension Presentations and Program Representation**

- 2023 Connecticut Flower & Garden Show "Houseplant Diagnostics – be a Plant Health Detective!"
- Connecticut Horticultural Society Invited Speaker, May 18, 2023, “Healthy Plants, Indoors and Out”
- 2022 Connecticut Flower & Garden Show "Investigating Plant Problems - Damage, Disorder, or Disease?"

- Annual IPM Seminar Series – August 20, 2022 “Disease Update & IPM Tips for the Home Gardener”
  - Lead organizer; headline presentation
- Connecticut Nursery and Landscaping Association (CNLA) 2022 Summer Field Day “Disease Update and IPM Mitigation” (1 CEU credit for attendees)
- UConn Master Gardener Training - Plant Pathology (10, 4-hour lectures, 2022-present)
- CT Pesticide Applicator Certification Course – Plant Pathology, Entomology (8 2-hour lectures, 2021-present)
- Organized and presented several “Florida First Detector” extension workshops (2018 through 2019) - <http://www.flfirstdetector.org/>
  - Provided stakeholders, master gardeners and homeowners resources and training on insect identification and management, biosecurity protocols, and plant disease identification services through the University of Florida
- Represented the UF DPM program at:
  - 2018 Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscaping Association Annual Conference
  - 2018 Florida Tomato Committee & Exchange Annual Conference
  - 2017,2018 Florida State Fair
  - 2017, 2018 University of Florida annual “Bug Week” events

### **Leadership Experience**

- UConn IPM Coordinator (2023-present)
- UConn committee leadership
  - HGEC & department communication position search chair (2022)
  - Beekeeping club faculty advisor (2021-present)
  - FFA Career Development Event faculty advisor (2021-present)
  - Ad-hoc PSLA Department Visibility & Recruitment Chair (2022 – present)
  - PSLA Social committee co-chair (2022-present)
- Connecticut Horticultural Society – Member of Board of Directors & UConn representative (2021-present)

- Chair, NPDN Proficiency Committee: 2023-present
- Vice-Chair, NPDN Proficiency Committee: 2022-2023
- DPMSO Vice-President: 2020-2021
- DPMSO Treasurer: 2018-2019, 2019-2020
- With DPMSO leadership, organized multiple DPM Fundraising and Outreach events including:
  - 2019 February Flora and Fauna Fest
  - 2018, 2019 Kanapaha Botanical Garden Annual Plant Sale
  - 2018 – 2020 Quarterly fundraisers at local breweries Cypress & Grove, First Magnitude, and Swamp Head

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**July 2021 – Present**

(40+ hrs/week)

**Assistant Extension Educator, UConn Plant Diagnostic Laboratory Director and Diagnostician, *University of Connecticut – College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture***

- Performs disease diagnostic services for clients of the plant diagnostic laboratory including examining disease symptoms and signs with microscopes, performing microscope photography, dissecting samples to isolate symptomatic tissue, culturing bacterial and fungal pathogens, performing serological testing of viral and unculturable pathogens, performing nematode extraction and identification, performing insect identification, performing hot water seed treatment, and using compendia to research and identify diseases based on host symptoms and pathogen morphology, etc.
- Provides preventative and curative disease management recommendations to clients in the form of reports, following current literature, according to lab and university policies. These reports are accompanied by labeled microscopy photographs of associated symptoms and signs, and shared via our laboratory information management software (LIMS), PCLinic
- Primary diagnostician responsible for all levels of service and client interaction
- Performs extension duties relevant to the position including Master Gardner training, delivery of various presentations to stakeholders, 4-H landscaping, nursery, and floriculture event coordination, pesticide applicator training, IPM training, etc.

- Secures external grant funding for lab
- Participates in faculty meetings and coordination events for both department of Plant Science & Landscape Architecture and department of Extension
  - Supervisor contact: Department head, Dr. Sydney Everhart [everhart@uconn.edu](mailto:everhart@uconn.edu) – (860) 486-2925

January 2020 –  
July 2021  
(30 hrs/week)

**Graduate Assistant - Plant Disease Diagnostician, University of Florida - Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Plant Diagnostic Center**

- Plant disease diagnostician; turfgrass diagnostician
  - Supervisor contact: Extension Plant Pathologist and center director, Dr. Carrie Harmon [clharmon@ufl.edu](mailto:clharmon@ufl.edu) - (352) 392-1795
- Performed disease triage and diagnostic services for clients of the plant diagnostic center including examining disease symptoms with a microscope, dissecting samples to isolate symptomatic tissue, culturing bacterial and fungal pathogens, and using compendia to research and identify diseases based on host symptoms and pathogen morphology
- Provided preventative and curative disease management recommendations to clients, according to lab and university policies
- Primary diagnostician responsible for the Rapid Turfgrass Diagnostic Service
- Provided instructional support for courses PLP6291 and PLP6942
- Performed essential lab duties such as running the autoclave, writing and updating standard operating procedures, extracting sample DNA, performing DAS-ELISA, filing paperwork, entering data into PCLinic, instructing interns and OPS diagnosticians

May 2020  
– August  
2020

(10-  
20hrs/week)

**Professional Intern, University of Maine, Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory**

- Performed distance diagnostic work for UMaine PDDL Director, Dr. Alicyn Smart ([alicyn.smart@maine.edu](mailto:alicyn.smart@maine.edu) – (207) 581-3883 )
- Performed photo diagnostics and extension workshop assistance
- Wrote SOP and fact sheets on pests and disorders affecting New England crops
- Attended weekly Vegetable Pest Alert meetings to familiarize myself with pests and pathogens in the Northeastern US



May 2019 –  
January 2020  
(GS-7;  
40hrs/week)

**Laboratory Manager, United States Department of Agriculture –  
Agricultural Research Service, Center for Medical, Agricultural and  
Veterinary Entomology**

- Lab manager for USDA Research Entomologist David Oi, PhD
  - Supervisor contact: [david.oi@usda.gov](mailto:david.oi@usda.gov) - (352) 374-5987
- Supervised and assisted with skills development of the OPS laboratory assistant employed by Dr. Oi
- Organized and executed experiments with the purpose of collecting data to be used in publishable research (specifically, I performed pesticide efficacy trials, evaluated a potential biological control organism on *Solenopsis invicta*, and tested a novel bait application technique)
- Maintained lab colonies of ants to be used for biological control and pesticide efficacy research
- Performed independent technical analyses of new methods for the improvement of rearing procedures
- Managed assigned areas and laboratories to keep them clean, orderly and available for use. This includes, but is not limited to, keeping the various records of activities, maintaining chemical and consumable supply inventories, communicating clearly in verbal and written form, assisting visiting scientists, maintaining a functional equipment inventory, etc.
- Provided summaries and statistical analysis of technical data as needed
- Oversaw research projects and served as primary Gainesville contact while Dr. Oi was serving as Acting National Program Leader, NP104: Veterinary, Medical, & Urban Entomology

June 2017 –  
May 2019  
(40hrs/week)

**Laboratory Technician IV – Technique and Methods Development  
(T&D), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services,  
Division of Plant Industry**

- Coordinated developmental work for the establishment of new rearing techniques to be incorporated into mass production programs under the supervision of Biological Administrator, George Schneider
  - Supervisor contact: [George.Schneider@FDACS.gov](mailto:George.Schneider@FDACS.gov) - (352) 395-4700 (may need to ask to be forwarded)
- Assisted with research initiatives to eradicate or manage invasive pests in conjunction with Methods Bureau scientists
- Participated on the project development team for the Biological Control Rearing Facility (BCRF) to create plans for new projects

- Performed independent technical analysis of new methods for the improvement of rearing procedures
- Performed the technical duties for quality assessment tests for the BCRF programs, e.g., emergence, stress, flight ability, mating propensity, disease screening, diet water retention, etc.
- Managed assigned areas and laboratories to keep them clean, orderly and available for use. This includes, but is not limited to, keeping the various records of activities, maintaining chemical and consumable supply inventories, communicating clearly in verbal and written form, assisting visiting scientists, maintaining a functional equipment inventory, etc.
- Provided computer summaries and statistical analysis of technical data as needed

December 2016

– June 2017

(25-30hrs/week)

**Laboratory Technician I**, *Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry*

- Member of the Red Imported Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta*) biological control team
- Scouted for and collected fire ant colonies
- Prepared and maintained colonies to be used for the rearing of biological control phorid flies
- Managed assigned areas and laboratories to keep them clean, orderly and available for use.

October 2016 –  
June 2017

(20hrs/week)

**Research Assistant**, *University of Florida, Department of Entomology and Nematology, Hodges Lab - Biosecurity Research and Extension*

- Assisted graduate students with work and research including rearing, data collection, quarantine colony maintenance, cage design and construction, field collection, etc.
- Aided in production of extension and research material, including specimen preservation (pinning/ slide mounting/ display production)
- Assisted extension presentations on lab research and the DPM program

Please contact me at [nick.goltz@uconn.edu](mailto:nick.goltz@uconn.edu) for work history prior to October 2016.