

## DEPARTMENT OF

# Plant Sciences

Cal Poly's Plant Sciences Department offers the plant sciences degree program with concentrations in three specialized areas: environmental horticultural science, fruit and crop science, and plant protection science.



## MAJOR

- Plant Sciences

## CONCENTRATIONS

- Environmental Horticultural Science
- Fruit and Crop Science
- Plant Protection Science

## MINORS

- Crop Science
- Fruit Science
- Landscape Horticulture
- Plant Protection
- Sustainable Agriculture

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Master of Science in Agriculture with Specializations in:
  - Crop Science
  - Environmental Horticultural Science
  - Plant Protection Science



**CAL POLY**

College of Agriculture, Food  
& Environmental Sciences

## ON THE JOB

### CAREERS

- Arborists
- Certified Crop Advisors
- Community outreach specialists
- Educators
- Farm production managers
- Food safety specialists
- Greenhouse manager
- Landscape contractors
- Pest control advisors
- Plant and soil scientists
- Research associates
- Restoration ecologists
- Sales representatives and consultants

### TOP EMPLOYERS

- Bayer Seminis
- California Strawberry Commission
- Driscoll's
- Grimmway Farms
- JG Boswell
- Lundberg Family Farms
- Koppert Biologicals
- Monrovia
- Nutrien
- Taylor Farms
- Wilbur-Ellis
- Windset Farms
- Wonderful Citrus

## STUDENT CLUBS

- Crops Club
- Floral Design Team  
(affiliated with the National American  
Institute of Floral Designers)
- Horticulture Club
- Pi Alpha Xi
- Professional Landcare Network Team

## Research and Production Opportunities

### THE GRIMM FAMILY CENTER FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND RESEARCH

A partnership between Cal Poly's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences and Grimmway Farms provides students and faculty with the opportunity to work directly with top producers in the organic industry through internships, research, and other collaborations.

### CAL POLY STRAWBERRY CENTER

In partnership with the California Strawberry Commission, students gain experience in conducting research, pathology and entomology lab skills, farm management practices, as well as build future relationships with commodity groups.

### CROPS UNIT

The Crops Unit has 70 acres of productive citrus, avocados, grapes, deciduous orchard, and berries, including an 8-acre certified organic production field. Students learn sustainable and efficient production techniques, harvesting and apply the latest food safety laws and regulations.

### ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE UNIT

The unit is a student-operated commercial greenhouse and nursery in which students are involved in wholesale and retail sales. Also included are 35,000 square-feet of greenhouses, a 5,000 square-foot retractable roof greenhouse, and 7,500 square-feet of shade houses. Students work at the Poly Plant Shop, designing floral arrangements and working with customers.

### LEANING PINE ARBORETUM

The Leaning Pine Arboretum, located on the Cal Poly campus, is a five-acre expanse of teaching gardens displaying hundreds of unique plants. The collection presents plants from the world's five Mediterranean climate regions: Australia, California, Chile, the Mediterranean basin and South Africa.

### PLANT SCIENCES COMPLEX COMING IN EARLY 2026

Cal Poly broke ground on the first phase of development of the 6-acre Plant Sciences Complex that will feature a new teaching and laboratory building and a farm store for food retail operations.



### INDUSTRY GROWTH

# 15%

Employment for agricultural scientists in California is projected to grow 15% through 2028.

CA EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

### AVERAGE SALARY

# \$106K

As of 2023, the average annual pay for an agricultural scientist in California is \$106,088, with salaries as high as \$142,633.

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## FIND OUT MORE

805-756-1237  
[plantsciences.calpoly.edu](https://plantsciences.calpoly.edu)