



**CAL POLY**

College of Agriculture, Food  
& Environmental Sciences

# PLANT SCIENCES

## DEPARTMENT

### OVERVIEW

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

#### MINORS

- CROP SCIENCE
- FRUIT SCIENCE
- LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURE
- PLANT PROTECTION
- SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

#### CONCENTRATIONS

- ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE
- FRUIT AND CROP SCIENCE
- PLANT PROTECTION SCIENCE

#### GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE WITH SPECIALIZATIONS IN:
  - ▶ CROP SCIENCE
  - ▶ ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE
  - ▶ PLANT PROTECTION SCIENCE

### INDUSTRY FACTS

- Employment for agricultural scientists in California is projected to grow by 15% through 2028, according to California's Employment Development Department.
- As of 2023, the average annual pay for an agricultural scientist in California is \$106,088, with salaries as high as \$142,633 according to ZipRecruiter.com.



## 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.



## 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

California Strawberry Commission  
Driscoll's  
Grimmway Farms  
Lundberg Family Farms  
Koppert Biologicals  
Monrovia  
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

## CONNECT

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

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