

MENGZI ZHANG

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2725 South Binion Rd
Apopka, FL 32703

EDUCATION

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|------------|---|---------|
| PhD | University of Florida, Horticulture Science
Advisor: Brian Pearson | present |
| MS | Michigan State University, Horticulture Science
Thesis: "Manipulating light quality to improve growth attributes of high-value specialty crops in controlled environments"
Advisor: Erik Runkle | 2018 |
| BS | Beijing Forestry University, Ornamental Horticulture
Graduation thesis: "The dwarfing effect of plant growth regulators on potted Primula"
Graduation thesis advisor: Huitang Pan | 2016 |

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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| Biological Scientist II , University of Florida, Apopka | 2018-present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Development• Lab and Greenhouse Supervision• Extension• Project Involvements (<u>to be continued</u>):<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project partnership; Florida Superfoods – Ginger, Turmeric, and Camellia tea.
Jul. 2020-present• Project lead; Propagation of <i>Mitragyna speciosa</i> with Seasonal Changes.
Aug. 2019-Jul. 2020• Project partnership; The influence of different growth environments on the growth, yield, gingerol concentration, and curcumin concentration on different cultivars of ginger and turmeric.
May 2019-Aug. 2019• Project lead; Photoperiod Trial on Industrial Hemp.
Oct. 2019-May 2020• Project lead; Effects of Nutrient Fertility on Growth and Phytoactive Alkaloid Synthesis in <i>Mitragyna speciosa</i>.
Sept. 2018-Mar. 2019• Project lead; Effects of Lighting and Shading on Growth and Phytoactive Alkaloid Synthesis in <i>Mitragyna speciosa</i>.
Sept. 2018-Mar. 2019 | |
| Graduate Research Assistant , Michigan State University, East Lansing | 2016-2018 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Categorizing High-value Specialty Crop Responses to Far-red Radiation with Sole-Source Lighting for Indoor Production.• Hybrid Greenhouse Supplemental Lighting Strategy for Lettuce.• Light-emitting Diodes Photoperiodic Lighting on Controlling Flowering and Extension Growth of Poinsettia | |
| Undergraduate Research Assistant , Beijing Forestry University, Beijing | 2016 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Dwarfing Effect of Plant Growth Regulators on Potted Primula | |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, University of Florida, Apopka

- Greenhouse 101 2019
Introductory level with practical experience course underlying horticultural science of plant growth.
- ORH4264: Greenhouse and Nursery Crop Culture 2018
Course covered principles and practices used for commercial production of economically important environmental horticulture crops.
- ORH4848/HOS6932: Landscape Plant Establishment 2018
The course focused on the soil-plant-water relationship specific to transplanting ornamental plants from common production methods but also addresses other variables important to establishment such as plant selection, fertility, microclimate, etc.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Michigan State University, East Lansing

- HRT 430: Exploring Wines and Vines 2017
This course covers studies of wine including history, production methods, climactic, social, and cultural impacts, and economic impact of wine industry as part of modern agriculture.

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Committee member, American Floral Endowment (AFE) Young Professionals Council

2016-present

AFE scholarship application review; collect information on possible career fairs to represent AFE; develop PowerPoint or other presentational visual aid to introduce activities and opportunities in AFE.

Tour guide, UF/IFAS Industrial Hemp Pilot Project: 2019 MERC Hemp Workshop 2019

Committee member, American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) Education Planning Committee 2018-2019

Tour guide, 50th Anniversary for UF Mid-Florida Research and Education Center 2018

Co-president, Michigan State University Horticulture Organization of Graduate Students

2017-2018

Organize HOGS monthly meeting; coordinate with fund-raising events and all the department events; organize annual Plant Science Graduate Student Research Symposium.

Committee member, Michigan State University Horticulture Department newsletter "Hort Report" 2016-2018

Edit, write and collecting feedback for the newsletter.

Grass Sale Chair, Michigan State University Horticulture of Graduate Students 2016-2017

Organize Spring Grass Sale and fundraise for HOGS; request donations from growers and coordinate with MSU greenhouse; propagate, transplant, daily management and supervise ornamental grass production.

Presenter & Volunteer, Science Festival, Michigan State University 2018

Educational Session Moderator, Cultivate 18' Conference 2018

Presenter & Volunteer, “Fascination of Plant Day”, Michigan State University	2017
Educational Session Moderator, Cultivate 17’ Conference	2017
Assistant and Production Operator (Internship), Beijing Florascape Co., Ltd.	2014
Conduct field production test and collect data at Floriculture Research Institute; propagate, transplant, pinch and greenhouse daily management for annual potted flowers at Beijing International Flower Port; assist with project integration work at Resource Management Department.	

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

- Workshop**, “Photoperiodism of CBD and Fiber Hemp”, UF/IFAS Hemp Virtual ‘Workshop’, Nov. 2020.
- Oral Presentation**, “Hybrid Greenhouse Lighting of Cut Lettuce”, North Central Extension & Research Activity–101 (NCERA-101), Apr. 2018.
- Oral Presentation**, “Regulating Flowering and Extension Growth of Poinsettia Using Red and Far-red LEDs for End-of-day Lighting”, American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS), Sept. 2017.

HONORS AND AWARDS

North Central Extension & Research Activity–101 Travel Grant	2018
Graduate Office Fellowship , Michigan State University	2017
Summer Critical Needs Fellowship , Michigan State University	2017
Graduate School Travel Grant , Michigan State University	2017
American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) Travel Grant	2017
Outstanding Graduates , Beijing Forestry University	2016
Outstanding Thesis , Beijing Forestry University	2016

PEER REVIEWERS FOR JOURNALS

MDPI-Agronomy

University of Florida EDIS