

Thomas J. Molnar

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Educational Background

Undergraduate Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Cook College, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
B.S. Plant Science, 2000

Graduate Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Ph.D. in Plant Biology, 2006

Professional Appointments

July 2008 – present: Assistant Professor, Plant Biology and Pathology Department. Rutgers University

July 2007 – June 2008: Research Assistant Professor, Non-Tenure Track, Plant Biology and Pathology Department. Rutgers University

January 2004 – June 2007: Assistant Instructor, Plant Biology and Pathology Department. Rutgers University

September 2001 - December 2003: Graduate Assistant, Plant Biology and Pathology Department. Rutgers University.

September 2000 - August 2001: Albert Fellows Graduate Fellowship, Plant Biology and Pathology Department. Rutgers University

Teaching Responsibilities

Plant Propagation (11:776:310) 2004-current

Scholarships and Awards

Rutgers University Graduate School Research Award 2005

Gerald O. Mott Meritorious Graduate Student Award in Crop Science 2005

Northeast Branch American Society of Agronomy and Soil
Science Society of America Graduate Student Award 2004

Albert Fellows Graduate Excellence Fellowship, Rutgers Univ. 2000 through 2004

Memberships in Professional Organizations

Improving Perennial Plants for Food and Bioenergy, Inc., *Member of Board of Directors and Chairman of Research Committee*; Northern Nut Growers Association, *Secretary (2007-) and member of the Board of Directors*; American Society for Horticultural Science; International Society for Horticultural Science; American Association for the Advancement of Science; American Phytopathological Society; Pennsylvania Nut Growers Association; New York Nut Growers Association; Nut Growers Society of OR, WA, and British Columbia; Walnut Council; North American Fruit Explorers; Society of Ontario Nut Growers; American Pomological Society; International Plant Propagators Society; American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America; Holly Society of America; Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society

Publications

Dissertation:

Molnar, T. J. 2006. Genetic resistance to eastern filbert blight in hazelnut (*Corylus*). Ph.D. Thesis. 113 pages. Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Refereed publications:

1. Bonos, S.A., E. Watkins, J.A. Honig, M. Sasa, T.J. Molnar, J.A. Murphy, and W.A. Meyer. 2001. Breeding cool-season turfgrasses for wear tolerance using a wear simulator. *International Turfgrass Society Research Journal*. 9: 137-145.
2. Perdomo, P., T.J. Molnar, T.M. Ford, W.A. Meyer, and C.R. Funk. 2003. Registration of 'Secretariat' perennial ryegrass. *Crop Science* 43: 439-440.
3. Bonos, S.A., W.A. Meyer, T.J. Molnar, and C.R. Funk. 2003. Registration of 'Jefferson' Kentucky bluegrass. *Crop Science* 43: 738-739.
4. Bonos, S.A., T. Brentano, T.J. Molnar, W.A. Meyer, and C.R. Funk. 2004. Registration of 'Lakeshore' Kentucky bluegrass. *Crop Science* 44: 1481-1482
5. Yezhov, V.N., A.V. Smykov, V.K. Smykov, S.Y. Khokhlov, D.E. Zaurov, S.A. Mehlenbacher, T. J. Molnar (corresponding author), J.C. Goffreda, and C.R. Funk. 2005. Genetic resources of temperate and subtropical fruit and nut species at the Nikita Botanical Gardens. *HortScience* 40:5-9.
6. Mavlyanova, R.F., F.Kh. Abdullaev, P.Khodjiev, D.E. Zaurov, T.J. Molnar (corresponding author), J.C. Goffreda, T.J. Orton, and C.R. Funk. 2005. Plant genetic resources and scientific activities of the Uzbek Research Institute of Plant Industry. *HortScience* 40:10-14.
7. Molnar, T.J., J.C. Goffreda, and C.R. Funk. 2005. Developing hazelnuts for the eastern United States. *Acta Hort (ISHS)* 68:609-617.
8. Ford, T.M., W.A. Meyer, T.J. Molnar, G. Zhang, and C.R. Funk. 2005. Registration of 'Sonoma' Kentucky bluegrass. *Crop Science* 45:1655-1656.
9. Ford, T.M., W.A. Meyer, R.A. Bara, T.J. Molnar, and C.R. Funk. 2005. Registration of 'Bordeaux' Kentucky bluegrass. *Crop Science* 45:1654-1655.
10. Molnar, T.J., S.N. Baxer, and J.C. Goffreda. 2005. Accelerated screening of hazelnut seedlings for resistance to eastern filbert blight. *HortScience* 40:1667-1669.
11. Molnar, T.J., S.A. Mehlenbacher, D.E. Zaurov, and J.C. Goffreda. 2007. Survey of hazelnut germplasm from Russia and Crimea for response to eastern filbert blight. *HortScience* 42:51-56.
12. Ibragimov, P.S., V.A. Avtonomov, A.B. Amanturdiyev, S.E. Namazov, D.E. Zaurov, T.J. Molnar (corresponding author), S.W. Eisenman, T.J. Orton, and C.R. Funk. 2008. Uzbek Scientific Research Institute of Cotton Breeding and Seed Production: Breeding and Germplasm Resources. *Journal of Cotton Science*. 12:62-72
13. Abdushukur A. K., G.M. Chernova, A. M. Rakhmonov, L. V. Nikolyi1, E. Ablaeva, D. E. Zaurov, T. J. Molnar (corresponding author), S.W. Eisenman, and C. R. Funk. 2009. Genetic Resources of *Pistacia vera* L. in Central Asia. *Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution*. 56:429-443
14. Molnar, T.J., J.M. Capik, and J.C. Goffreda. 2009. Response of hazelnut progenies from known resistant parents to *Anisogramma anomala* in New Jersey, U.S.A. *Acta Hort (ISHS)* 845:73-81
15. Molnar, T.J., J.C. Goffreda, and C.R. Funk. 2010. Survey of *Corylus* Resistance to *Anisogramma anomala* from Different Geographic Locations. *HortScience*. 45:832-836.
16. Molnar, T.J., J. Capik, S. Zhao, N. Zhang. 2010. First report of Eastern Filbert Blight on *Corylus avellana* 'Gasaway' and 'VR20-11' caused by *Anisogramma anomala* (Peck) E. Müller in New Jersey. *Plant Disease*. Published Online: DOI: 10.1094/PDIS-06-10-0445

Non-refereed publications:

1. Johnson-Cicalese, J.M., W.A. Meyer, M. Mohr, K. Plumley, and T. Molnar. 1997. Developing Kentucky bluegrass cultivars with improved resistance to billbugs. *Rutgers Turfgrass Proceedings*. 29: 157-176
2. Molnar, T. 2003. Persian walnuts from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. *The nutshell, quarterly newsletter of the Northern Nut Growers Association*. Vol. 57, 4:23.
3. Funk, C.R., T.J. Molnar, and W.A. Meyer. 2004. Potential of *Poa angustifolia* L. as a low- to medium-low maintenance turfgrass. *Rutgers Turfgrass Proceedings*. 35:193.
4. Funk, C.R., T.J. Molnar, and W.A. Meyer. 2004. Germplasm collection, evaluation, and recurrent population improvement of turfgrasses and under-utilized perennial food crops. pgs 16-21. *Proceedings of the Thirteenth Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium*. Center for Turfgrass Science. Cook College. Rutgers University.
5. Orton, E.R. and T. Molnar. 2004. VENUSTM dogwood introduced by NJEAS/Cook College. *New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association Newsletter*. 2(4):8.
6. Molnar, T.J. and C.R. Funk. 2004. Developing hazelnuts (*Corylus* sp.) in the eastern United States for sustainable agriculture and edible landscape plants. In ASA-CSSA-SSSA abstracts [CD-ROM], ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, Madison, WI.

7. Funk, C.R., Zhang, G., Molnar, T. 2004. Harvesting carbon dioxide- the basis of a sustainable, prosperous bio-economy and independence from the use of fossil fuels. In ASA-CSSA-SSSA abstracts [CD-ROM], ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, Madison, WI.
8. Letchamo, W., T.J. Molnar, and C.R. Funk. 2004. Developing sea berry (*Hyppophae rhamnoides* L.) as a multipurpose crop for the United States of America. In ASA-CSSA-SSSA abstracts [CD-ROM], ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, Madison, WI.
9. Orton, E.R. and T.J. Molnar. 2005. Stellar® and Jersey Star® Dogwood. *American Nurseryman*. 201(8):38-42.
10. Funk, C.R., T. Molnar, G. Zhang, and S. Baxer. 2005. A new green revolution. p. 39. *Proceedings of the Fourteenth Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium*. Center for Turfgrass Science. Cook College. Rutgers University.
11. Molnar, T.J., Joseph Heckman, and C. R. Funk. 2005. Expanding the green revolution: planting genetically improved trees on previously forested soils. Abstract of the ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meeting. Nov. 6-10, 2005. Salt Lake City, UT.
12. Funk, C.R., and T. Molnar. 2006. Genetic improvement of perennial plants for food, feed, fiber, timber, bioenergy, and environmental enhancement. p. 36. *Proceedings of the Fifteenth Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium*. Center for Turfgrass Science. Cook College. Rutgers University.
13. Molnar, T. J. and S. Baxer. 2006. Backyard Breeding: Hazelnuts. *The nutshell, quarterly newsletter of the Northern Nut Growers Association*. Vol. 60:12-17.
14. S.N. Baxer, J.A. Crouch, R.F. Sullivan, B.I. Hillman, T.J. Molnar, C.R. Funk. 2006. Investigating genetic diversity of *Anisogramma anomala*, causal agent of eastern filbert blight. Abstracts of the North East Division American Phytopathological Society Meeting.
15. Molnar, T.J., S.N. Baxer., G. Zhang, and C.R. Funk. 2007. Role of turfgrasses and other landscape plants in reducing global warming and our addiction to fossil fuels. p. 44. *Proceedings of the Sixteenth Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium*. Center for Turfgrass Science. School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. Rutgers University.
16. Capik, J. and T.J. Molnar. Chip bud layering: an easy way to produce rooted layers of hazelnuts. 2007. *The Nutshell, quarterly newsletter of the Northern Nut Growers Association*. Vol. 61:15-18
17. Molnar, T.J., S. N. Baxer, and C. R. Funk. 2008. Genetic improvement of perennial crops for a sustainable future. p. 48. *Proceedings of the Seventeenth Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium*. Center for Turfgrass Science. School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. Rutgers University.
18. Molnar, T.J., J. Capik, J.C. Goffreda, and E. Orton. 2008. Developing New Woody Ornamental and Edible Landscape Plants at Rutgers. *Abstracts of the Northeast meeting of the American Society of Horticultural Science Annual Meeting*. HortScience 43:593.
19. Molnar, T.J., Zaurov, and Funk C.R. 2008. Nut research and breeding at Rutgers University. 2nd International Conference: Conservation and sustainable use of plant resources. Bishkek, September 11-14, 2008, pp 248-256.
20. Baxer, S.N. J.A. Crouch, C. R. Funk, T.J. Molnar and B.I. Hillman. 2008. Characterizing variability in *Anisogramma anomala* populations. *Abstracts of the Northeast meeting of the American Society of Horticultural Science Annual Meeting*. HortScience 43:593.
21. Molnar, T. 2008. Rutgers Nut Tree Research and Breeding Program. *Northern Nut Growers Association Annual Report*. In press.
22. Molnar, T.J., J. Capik, D. Zaurov, E. Fargo, and C. R. Funk. 2009. Perennial plants for a sustainable future: Progress and Perspectives at Rutgers. pgs. 49-51. *Proceedings of the Eighteenth Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium*. Center for Turfgrass Science. School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. Rutgers University.
23. Molnar, T.J. and M. Pisetta. 2009. Searching for resistance to eastern filbert blight: hazelnuts from the republic of Georgia. *The nutshell, quarterly newsletter of the Northern Nut Growers Association*. Vol. 63 (4):16-22
24. Molnar, T.J., J. Capik, D. Zaurov, A. Morgan, and C. R. Funk. 2010. Hybrid Hazelnut Consortium: a collaborative national effort to expand hazelnut production. pg 47. *Proceedings of the Nineteenth Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium*. Center for Turfgrass Science. School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. Rutgers University.
25. Molnar, T.J. 2010. A new call for hazelnuts. *The nutshell, quarterly newsletter of the Northern Nut Growers Association*. Vol. 64 (1):31-32
26. Molnar, T.J. 2010. A (second) new call for hazelnuts. *The nutshell, quarterly newsletter of the Northern Nut Growers Association*. Vol. 64 (2):12
27. Molnar, T.J. 2010. Eastern filbert blight: does genetic resistance hold up across different regions? *The nutshell, quarterly newsletter of the Northern Nut Growers Association*. Vol. 64 (2):16-24

Plant Variety Protection Certificates

1. Bonos, S. A., T. J. Molnar, W. A. Meyer, and C. R. Funk. 2004. United States Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 9800135. 'Jefferson' Kentucky bluegrass. Issued Oct. 07, 2004.
2. Johnson, S., S. A. Bonos, T. J. Molnar, W. A. Meyer, and C. R. Funk. 2005. United States Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 200200218. 'Gator 3' perennial ryegrass. Issued June 15, 2005.
3. Nelson, E., C. R. Funk, T. Molnar, S.A. Bonos and W.A. Meyer. 2008. United States Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 200600292. 'Wendy Jean' strong creeping red fescue. Issued Nov. 4, 2008.
4. Hignight, K. T. Molnar, and W.A. Meyer. 2008. United States Plant Variety Protection Application no. 200800180. 'Concerto' Kentucky bluegrass.
5. Meyer, W.A., T.A. Ford, G. Zhang, and T. Molnar. 2008. United States Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 200300157. 'Sonoma' Kentucky bluegrass. Issued Aug. 20, 2008. Applied for Feb. 10, 2003.
6. Meyer, W.A., C.R. Funk, T. Molnar, E. Szerszen and S.A. Bonos. 2009. United States Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 200700257. 'Bravado' tall fescue. Issued Jan. 22, 2009.
7. Meyer, W.A. C.R. Funk, B.B. Clarke and T. Molnar. 2009 United States Plant Variety Protection Certificate no. 200400132. 'Mercury' Kentucky bluegrass. Issued Feb. 17, 2009.

Seminars/Presentations/Posters

1. Tapping the under-utilized potential of hazelnut (*Corylus*) using intra- and interspecific hybridization. *The Graduate Program in Plant Biology Graduate Student Topic Seminar Series*. Rutgers University, Cook College. March 10, 2003.
2. Hazelnut collection trip to Russia and the Crimean peninsula of the Ukraine. *Pennsylvania Nut Growers Association Annual Meeting*. Pennsylvania State Farm Show, Harrisburg, PA. January 15, 2003 (invited).
3. An update on current eastern filbert blight research at Rutgers University. *Pennsylvania Nut Growers Association Annual Meeting*. Pennsylvania State Farm Show, Harrisburg, PA. January 15, 2003 (invited).
4. Eastern Filbert Blight: A formidable adversary. *New York Nut Growers Association Annual Meeting*. Cobleskill College, State University of New York, Cobleskill, NY. March 27, 2004 (invited).
5. Developing hazelnuts for the eastern United States. 6th *International Congress on Hazelnut*. International Society of Horticultural Science. Tarragona, Spain. June 14-18, 2004.
6. Developing hazelnuts (*Corylus* sp.) in the eastern United States for sustainable agriculture and edible landscape plants. *Northeastern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy & Soil Science Society of America Conference*. Rutgers Eco-complex. Bordentown, NJ. July 11-14, 2004
7. The genetic improvement of nut trees for sustainable agriculture and edible landscapes. *Rutgers Cooperative Extension Organic-Sustainable Agriculture Workshop*. Traves Hall-B, Douglass Student Center, Cook College. New Brunswick, NJ. August 4, 2004.
8. Trees and other perennial crops: Key to the next green revolution. *Rutgers International Seminar Series*. 138A Foran Hall, Cook College. New Brunswick, NJ. March 30, 2005 (invited).
9. Walnut and hazelnut collection in the former Soviet Union. *New York Nut Growers Association Annual Meeting*. Belmont, NY. October 15, 2005 (invited).
10. Expanding the green revolution: Planting genetically improved trees on previously forested soils. *Soil Science Society of America Annual Meeting*. Salt Lake City, UT. November 6-10, 2005 (invited).
11. Hazelnut breeding at Rutgers. *Cream Ridge Nursery Research and Extension Meeting Hay Wagon Tour*. Cream Ridge Fruit Research and Extension Center. August 17, 2006.
12. The state of hazelnuts in the eastern United States. *Northern Nut Growers Association Annual Meeting*. Macomb, Illinois. July 23-27, 2006 (invited).
13. Nuts about nuts at the Hutcheson Memorial Forest. Guided HMF woods walk tour. November 12, 2006.
14. S.N. Baxer, J.A. Crouch, R.F. Sullivan, B.I. Hillman, T.J. Molnar, C.R. Funk. 2006. Poster: Exploring the genetic diversity of *Anisogramma anomala*, causal agent of eastern filbert blight. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting.
15. Nut crops for the Mid-Atlantic region: Developing hazelnuts, walnuts, and heartnuts. *Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School*. Ocean City, MD. November 29, 2006 (invited).
16. Examining diversity in populations of *Anisogramma anomala*. Sara N. Baxer, Jo Anne Crouch, C. Reed Funk, Thomas J. Molnar, Bradley I. Hillman. XXIV Fungal Genetics Conference. Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, CA. March 20-25, 2007.
17. Hillman. Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

18. Perennial crops: Untapped potential for sustainable food and bioenergy production. *Fifth Tripartite Workshop in Biotechnology and Bioenergy* (Rutgers University, Ohio State University, Universidade de Sao Paulo Brazil). East Brunswick, NJ. April 9-11, 2007 (invited).
19. Baxer, S.N., T.J. Molnar, and C. R. Funk. 2007. Poster: Harvesting Carbon Dioxide with Perennial Plants: A Sustainable Source of Food and Energy. Fifth Tripartite workshop in biotechnology and bioenergy. East Brunswick, NJ. April 9-11, 2007.
20. The hazelnut in New Jersey. New Jersey Historical Society Lunch Time Program. The NJ Historical Society, Newark, NJ. May 30, 2007 (invited).
21. An update on hazelnut research at Rutgers. *Northern Nut Growers Association Annual Meeting*. Ottawa, Canada. August 14, 2007 (invited).
22. S.N. Baxer, J.A. Crouch, R.F. Sullivan, B.I. Hillman, T.J. Molnar, C.R. Funk. 2007. Poster: Examining diversity in populations of *Anisogramma anomala*. 24th Fungal Genetics Conference. Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, CA. March 20-25, 2007.
23. S.N. Baxer, J.A. Crouch, R.F. Sullivan, B.I. Hillman, T.J. Molnar, C.R. Funk. 2007. Poster: Exploring the genetic variability of *Anisogramma anomala*, causal agent of eastern filbert blight. Microbiology at Rutgers University: Cultivating Traditions, Current Strength and Future Frontiers. A mini-symposium. New Jersey Museum of Agriculture. January 25-26 2007
24. Hazelnuts and Heartnuts: Getting started with new crops for the Mid-Atlantic region. Mid-Atlantic Crop Management School. Ocean City, MD. November 13, 2007 (invited).
25. Hazelnut breeding and research at Rutgers University. Hazelnut Development Initiative Strategic Planning Meeting. Skok Hall, St. Paul Campus, University of Minnesota. November 19, 2007 (invited).
26. Nut Breeding at Rutgers University: What have we learned in ten years? 310 Alderman Hall, St. Paul Campus, University of Minnesota. Sponsored by: Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management, Agronomy and Plant Genetics; Horticultural Sciences, University of Minnesota November 20, 2007 (invited).
27. Developing New Woody Ornamental and Edible Landscape Plants at Rutgers. *New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Symposium Horticulture and the Urban/Rural Interface*. Northeast Region American Society for Horticultural Science. January 3-5, 2008. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (invited).
28. The Rutgers Ornamental and Nut Tree Breeding Program: A Rich History and a Bright future. *Meeting of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Board of Managers*. February 28, 2008. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (invited).
29. Rutgers Nut Tree Breeding Program. *New Jersey Forestry Association Annual Meeting*. Duke Farms, Hillsborough, NJ. March 1, 2008 (invited).
30. Response of hazelnut progenies from known resistant parents to *Anisogramma anomala* in New Jersey, U.S.A. *7th International Congress on Hazelnut*. *International Society of Horticultural Science*. Viterbo, Italy. June 23-27, 2008.
31. Hazelnut research at Rutgers. *Northern Nut Growers Association Annual Meeting*. College Station, TX. August 10-13, 2008 (invited).
32. Hazelnuts as a feedstock for Biodiesel. *Northeast Renewable Energy Conference*. State College, PA. August 25-28, 2008. (invited)
33. Nut Research and Breeding at Rutgers. *New York Nut Growers Association Fall Meeting*. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. September 27, 2008. (speaker and host of meeting).
34. The Rutgers Woody Ornamental Breeding and Research Program: A rich history and a bright future. *South Jersey Nursery Meeting*. Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County Extension Education Center, Millville, NJ. October 23, 2008. (invited).
35. The Rutgers Woody Ornamental Breeding and Research Program. *Rutgers Gardens October Meeting*. Holly House, Rutgers Gardens, New Brunswick, NJ. 7:00 PM. October 27th, 2008. (invited).
36. Developing New Woody Ornamentals at Rutgers University. *Annual Meeting of the Holly Society of America, Inc.* Newark, Ohio. November 2, 2008. (invited).
37. Hazelnut tour and discussion. NJAES Sustainable Energy Working Group. Adelphia research farm, Freehold, NJ. October 5 2009.
38. Hazelnuts: A new crop with great potential. Hazelnuts for Ontario Information Meeting. University of Guelph, Simcoe Research Station. March 31, 2010. (invited)
39. Hazelnuts at Rutgers: A new sustainable, low-input crop for the northeastern U.S. Alpha Zeta National Agricultural Leadership Conference. New Brunswick, NJ. April 8, 2010 (invited)
40. Update on the Rutgers hazel project. Northern Nut Growers Assoc. 101st annual meeting. Wooster College, Wooster, Ohio. July 19, 2010. (invited)

41. The Rutgers Hazelnut Project. Rutgers Hazelnut Field Day. July 31, 2010. Cook Campus, Rutgers Univ. (speaker and host of meeting)
42. Advances on Hazelnut Research in North America. International Horticulture Congress. Lisboa, Portugal. August 22-26 2010.

Guest Lectures

1. **Introduction to Ethnobotany (11:776:205)**. Dr. Lena Struwe. February 21, 2005. Case Study of Hazelnut Breeding and Germplasm Collection Trips to Central Asia.
2. **Plant Breeding (11:776:406)**. Drs. Stacey Bonos and Thomas Orton. Yearly 2005-1010. Lecture on breeding nut trees for the northeastern United States, species included walnuts, pecans and hickories, and hazelnuts.
3. **Principles of Organic Crop Production (11:776:221)**. Dr. Joseph Heckman. December 11, 2006, Nov 6, 2007 and Nov. 17, 2008. Nut trees for organic and sustainable production in the northeastern U.S.
4. **Rutgers Biotech Program Summer Research Program**. Dr. Barbara Zilinskas. Provided a walking tour and discussion of hazelnut research and breeding at the Cream Ridge Research Farm. June 25, 2010.

Grants

1. Specialty Crops Research Initiative Title: Expansion of hazelnut production and feedstock potential through breeding for disease resistance and climatic adaptation.
2. Northeast Sun Grant Initiative Competitive Grants Program (August 2007 –Sept 2009). Developing the potential of hazelnuts as a feedstock for biodiesel and other olechemicals in the northeast. Principal Investigator: Thomas Molnar
3. Northern Nut Growers Association 2007 Research Grant (September 2007 –September 2009). Eastern Filbert Blight Resistant Hazelnut Selections from Russia and Crimea: Investigating Inheritance of Resistance
4. Center for Turfgrass Science (NJAES, Cook College, Rutgers Univ.) (Jan. 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009). Genetic Improvement of Turfgrasses and Other Underutilized Perennial Plants for Soil Improvement, Environmental Enhancement, Improved Nutrition, and Bioenergy. Principal Investigators: C. Reed Funk and Thomas Molnar.
5. Northeast SARE partnership grant. A New sustainable Crop for the Northeastern United States (April 1, 2009 to December 30, 2011). Principal Investigator: Thomas Molnar

Outreach

The National Arbor Day Foundation. Major cooperator in national hazelnut development consortium “Hybrid Hazelnut Consortium” initiated in January 2008, which includes Rutgers, the National Arbor Day Foundation, Oregon State University, and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
<http://www.arborday.org/programs/hazelnuts/consortium/>

Improving Perennial Plants for Food and Bioenergy, Inc. IPPFBE, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation with headquarters in Richmond, Utah. I am one of the founding board members of this organization. I am also chairman of the IPPFBE research committee. These are both unpaid positions. The mission of IPPFBE is to improve the quality of life of current and future populations by developing and encouraging the use of genetically improved perennial plants adapted to land not suitable for sustainable production of cultivated annual crops, to produce nutritious food, timber, fuel, and fiber for the Intermountain West and similar climates, and to increase biomass production to decrease carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere.
www.IPPFBE.org

Northern Nut Growers Association. Accepted the elected position in 2007 of Secretary and Chief Operations Officer of the Northern Nut Growers Association, a 800 member not-for-profit organization that focuses on educating the public and providing information and funding to researchers studying northern nut trees and their culture. www.nutgrowing.org

USDA National Plant Germplasm System Chestnut, Hazelnut & Pistachio Crop Germplasm Committee.
Active member of the hazelnut germplasm committee.

Public Press and Web-related information

1. Cracking the Mystery of the Hazelnut. Newark Star Ledger (Sunday Front Page). By Kitta McPherson. January 6, 2008
2. The Search for a Commercial Hazelnut. Growing Magazine (north feature article). www.growingmagazine.com. By Don Dale. November 1, 2008.
3. NY Nut Growers to Participate in Hazelnut trials. The Empire Nut Grower, the Newsletter of the New York Nut Growers Assoc. Summer 2009.
4. Research on hazelnuts might reap big rewards. Omaha World Herald. May 26, 2009 By Kevin Cole
5. Hazelnut test plot planted at Horning Farm. The Plattsmouth Journal. May 27 2009 By Patti Jo Peterson
6. Not-so-nutty idea. Simcoe Reformer (Canada). April 11, 2010. By Daniel Peirce.
7. Resilient hazelnut trees, owners. The Tillsonburg News. April 8, 2010. By Jeff Tribe.
8. Hazelnut for Biofuel Production eXtension website
http://www.extension.org/pages/Hazelnut_for_Biofuel_Production
9. Hybrid Hazelnuts may guarantee supply to Italian chocolate giant. FOODNEWS. Volume 38 No. 35. August 27 2010. By Emma Slawinski