



Introducing our New Research Viticulture Soil Scientist, Devin Rippner

Dr. Devin Rippner & Jayden Christman



My colleague & I at the Canadian Light Source using the hard x-ray microprobe (HXMA)

I am excited to start my position as a research viticulture soil scientist with the unit in Prosser Washington. My background is in soil chemistry and soil fertility with an active interest in pedology. I received my PhD in Soils in Biogeochemistry from UC Davis, my MS in Crop and Soil Science from Virginia Tech, and my BS in Environmental Science from UC Riverside. I was also an environmental volunteer with the Peace Corps in Malawi where I worked as an agricultural extension advisor collaborating with community groups on dry season cropping.



Sampling soils at the Oakville Research Station in Napa

During my Master's degree at Virginia Tech I worked on studying organic phosphorus in runoff from surface applied manures during rain events. During my PhD at UC Davis, I studied the effects of copper oxide nanoparticles on aquatic plants, soil microbial communities, and tomatoes.

After completing my PhD at UC Davis, I spent 1 year as a post-doctoral scientist studying the effects of biological seed coatings on phosphorus

uptake by soybeans in P deficient systems using a ³²P tracer. I also studied the effects of biochar on compost quality and subsequent effects on lettuce growth after composted biochar amendment.

After completing my post-doctoral position at UC Davis, I joined the USDA ARS CPGRU in Davis California where I worked as a post-doc developing workflows for x-ray CT image analysis using deep learning.

I look forward to working with growers to study soil management practices that will facilitate their production goals and improve grape quality for wine production.

You can contact Dr. Devin Rippner via (805)748-2844 or email at devin.rippner@usda.gov.



Dr. Rippner preparing to go into a growth chamber with radioactive plants and soils

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