



Introducing Jeff DeLong, a Supporting Research Scientist

Jeff DeLong



Jeff DeLong, USDA-ARS HCRU
Support Scientist at the WSU Mt.
Vernon, WA Research Center

I am excited to start my position as a USDA-ARS supporting research scientist at the WSU Mount Vernon Northwestern Research Extension Center, directed through the Horticulture Crops Research Unit in Corvallis, OR. I received my MS from the University of Georgia-Athens in plant pathology studying the genetic diversity of current and emerging fungal plant pathogens.



Jeff out in the field!

Prior to joining the HCRU, I was a USDA-ARS research technician for the Crop Diseases and Pest Genetics Unit at the San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Science Center in Parlier, CA, where I worked on USDA-NIFA-SCRI funded projects on the genetic diversity of *Botrytis cinerea* (grey mold) and *Erysiphe necator* (powdery mildew) on *Vitis* and *Prunus* hosts, and the development of fungicide resistance.

My role in this new position is to support HCRU scientists and conduct research on diseases of small fruit in Northern Washington with a focus on raspberry and blueberry crops. My project specifically, aims to develop genetic resources to assist with the mitigation and disease management of *B. cinerea*, the causal agent of gray mold. I also plan to collaborate with other scientists and growers in the Pacific Northwest to help address other cane and foliar diseases plaguing small fruits.

I envision that the small fruit industry in Northwestern Washington will benefit from this role, with collaborations generated by both WSU and USDA-ARS researchers, as well as growers and stakeholders in the region.

You can contact Jeff DeLong via email at Jeff.DeLong@usda.gov or phone: (360) 848-6134



Botrytis cinerea, the causal agent of grey rot, infecting a table grape cluster



Post harvest infection of *B. cinerea* on retail strawberries