Crop scientists seek to improve the productivity, profitability and quality of our major food, feed and fiber crops, enhance the quality of our turf and vegetative covers and improve the nutrient and economic health of our nation. Crop science is an exciting field with a great diversity of career opportunities.

In the Department of Crop Science at North Carolina State University, we realize that we must maintain a versatile and responsive educational program to train tomorrow’s leading crop scientists. We offer programs that answer the need for highly trained individuals.

Career Opportunities
Students may use their knowledge of basic sciences to help solve important agricultural problems in an ecologically sound manner. Many pursue careers as:

- research scientists, farm producers, soil conservationists and consultants
- crop advisers, extension agents, technical sales representatives
- farm service center managers, agronomic consultants, sod production and management specialists.

Interesting opportunities ranging from technical to applied, from the laboratory to the field and from the private sector to government await. Nearly 20 percent of agronomy graduates continue on to graduate studies.

Crop scientists may be involved with feeding the world, developing softer clothes, improving the durability of jeans, producing plant based pharmaceuticals, creating healthier food, fiber, and feed, or improving putting greens.

Research
Agronomic research includes the use of molecular, cellular and quantitative genetic techniques to improve plants; systems agriculture; weed management; agroecology and sustainable agriculture; crop modeling; integrated pest management; crop and forage management systems; seed technology; plant chemistry and biochemistry; and basic/applied physiology of crop plants.

Research programs are augmented by well-equipped laboratories, greenhouses, access to the NC State University Phytootron for controlled environmental work, and an excellent field station system with a variety of environments and soils ranging from the mountains to the piedmont and the coastal plain and black lands of Eastern North Carolina.

Course Work/Curriculum
Receive a broad education in the basic physical, biological and natural sciences. Advanced course work includes: weed science, soil fertility, crop ecology, plant disease and insect control, plant breeding and genetics, integrated pest management, agroecology, soil classification, soil physical properties and soil-crop management.

Specialty options include agronomic business, basic sciences, crop production, or soil science.

Graduate Study
Advanced programs leading to Master of Science or Doctor of Philosophy degrees are available in plant breeding and genetics, crop physiology and biochemistry, crop management, and weed science.

Co-Curricular Activities
Several organizations exist for agronomy students, including the Agronomy Club, the crop judging team, the soil judging team and the student chapter of the Golf Course Superintendent’s Association of America.

Career Services
In addition to faculty advisers, CALS Career Services is available to provide information about career and employment opportunities. The office assists students and alumni with a variety of career needs such as choosing a major, resume tips, and job search strategies.

For more information:

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