Thomas J. Molnar, Ph.D.

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Links to Research Gate and Google Scholar pages

Educational Background

Undergraduate	Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey School of Environmental and Biological Sciences New Brunswick, NJ, 08901 B.S. in Plant Science, 2000
Graduate	Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey School of Environmental and Biological Sciences New Brunswick, NJ, 08901 Ph.D. in Plant Biology, 2006

Professional Appointments

- July 2026 to present: Professor, Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University.
- July 2014 to June 2026: Associate Professor, Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University.
- July 2008 to 2014: Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University.
- July 2007 to June 2008: Research Assistant Professor, Non-Tenure Track, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University.
- January 2004 to June 2007: Assistant Instructor, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University.
- September 2001 to December 2003: Graduate Assistant, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University.
- September 2000 to August 2001: Albert Fellows Graduate Fellowship, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University.

Teaching Responsibilities

- 2004 to present: Plant Propagation (spring semesters; 11:776:310, 3-credit), syllabus link
- 2014 to present: Plant Breeding (spring semesters, co-taught with S. Bonos, G. Sideli; 11:776:406/16:765:529, 4 credit) syllabus link
- 2016 to present: Graduate Seminar topic Plant Breeding and Genomics, co-taught with S. Bonos, every other fall semester (16:765:624, 1-credit), syllabus link

Recognition, Scholarships, and Awards

- 2025 Rutgers SEBS Alumni of the Month (February)
- 2023 Northern Nut Growers Assoc. Merit Award
- 2017-2022 Rutgers University Chancellor's Scholar Award
- 2017 "Big Nut" Northern Nut Growers Association
- 2005 Rutgers University Graduate School Research Award
- 2005 Gerald O. Mott Meritorious Graduate Student Award in Crop Science
- 2004 Northeast Branch American Society of Agronomy and Soil Science Society of America Graduate Student Award
- 2000-2004 Albert Fellows Graduate Excellence Fellowship, Rutgers Univ.

Memberships in Professional Organizations

- Northern Nut Growers Association, *Secretary and Member of the Board of Directors 2007-2018*
- American Society for Horticultural Science, *2014 President of the Northeast branch of the ASHS*
- International Society for Horticultural Science
- International Plant Production Society (https://ipps.org/)
- Nut Growers Society of OR, WA, and BC (https://members.oregonhazelnuts.org/)
- American Phytopathological Society

Grants and other Funding Sources

Current funding

1. USDA-NIFA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, Grant Number 2024-67013-42536. Title: Exiting the breeding pipeline: meeting demand for hazelnut cultivars in the eastern U.S. July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2028. Amount: $448,458 (Rutgers portion **$150,000**). See description here. T. Molnar Co-PI.
2. Oregon Hazelnut Commission. Title: Evaluating hazelnut selections from Oregon State University for EFB resistance in New Jersey. Sept. 1, 2024 to Aug. 31, 2025. Amount **$33,838**. From Sept. 1, 2025 to Aug. 31, 2026. Amount **$35,482**. From Sept. 1. 2026 to Aug. 31, 2027. **Amount $35,482**. T. Molnar PI.
3. Ferrero Hazelnut Company (HCo) research donation. Aug. 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026, total amount **$170,000** See information here. T. Molnar PI.

Completed funding

4. New Jersey Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant program. Establishing and demonstrating methods for hazelnut harvesting and processing in New Jersey. Oct. 1, 2021 to Sept. 30, 2024. Amount $39,991. T. Molnar PI.
5. USDA-NIFA Specialty Crops Research Initiative, Grant Number 2016-51181-25412. Title: Genomic tools, genetic resources, and outreach to expand commercial U.S. hazelnut production. Sept. 1, 2016 to Aug 31, 2021. Amount $3.1 million (Rutgers portion $1,081,365). See description here. T. Molnar Co-PI.
6. USDA-NIFA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, Grant 2014-67013-22421. Title: Securing and expanding the U.S. hazelnut industry through breeding for resistance to eastern filbert blight. Sept. 1, 2014 to Aug. 31, 2016. Amount $500,000. Award shared with Oregon State University (S. Mehlenbacher). See description here. T. Molnar PI.
7. Northeast SARE graduate student grant. Title: Optimization of adventitious rooting of hazelnut stem cuttings to expedite on-farm commercialization trials. August 1, 2013 to July 31, 2015. Amount $8,376. Graduate Student Megan Muehlbauer under direction of T. Molnar. See description here.
8. Northern Nut Growers Association Research Grant. Title: Eastern filbert blight resistant hazelnut selections from Russia and Crimea: investigating inheritance of resistance. Sept. 1, 2013 to Aug. 31, 2014. Amount: $3,732. Graduate Student M. Muehlbauer under direction of faculty advisor T. Molnar.
9. USDA-NIFA ARS. Title: Boxwood Blight Cooperative Agreement: Rutgers University and the National Arboretum. Oct. 1 2013 to Sept. 31, 2018. Amount $278,261. T. Molnar PI.
10. Center for Turfgrass Science (NJAES). Title: Genetic Improvement of Turfgrasses and Other Underutilized Perennial Plants for Soil Improvement, Environmental Enhancement, Improved Nutrition, and Bioenergy. Jan. 1, 2023 to Dec. 31, 2023. Amount $5,000 (2008-2023 $425,000). T. Molnar PI.
11. USDA-NIFA Specialty Crops Research Initiative. Title: Expansion of hazelnut production and feedstock potential through breeding for disease resistance and climatic adaptation. Sept. 1, 2009 to Jan. 31, 2013. Amount: $1.39 million total—$360,000 Rutgers portion. T. Molnar is co-PI See description here.
12. Northeast Sun Grant Initiative Competitive Grants Program—Department of Transportation. Title: Developing the potential of hazelnuts as a feedstock for biodiesel and other oleochemicals in the northeast. Aug. 1, 2007–Dec.31, 2009. Amount $58,000. T. Molnar PI. See description here.
13. Northeast SARE partnership grant. Title: Hazelnuts: a new sustainable crop for the northeastern United States. April 1 2009 to Dec. 31, 2011. Amount: $10,000. See description here. T. Molnar PI.

Publications

Dissertation:

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

Refereed publications (*denotes when corresponding author):

2026

1. Robinson, J.K, Steele, J., Molnar, T.J., Regan, S. and G.C. diCenzo. 2026. *Corylus avellana* disease management: using metagenomics to illuminate the rhizosphere microbiome of *Corylus*. PhytoFrontiers. *In press*. https://apsjournals.apsnet.org/doi/10.1094/PHYTOFR-04-26-0038-R
2. Mehler, T.P.H, Boggess, S.L., Nowicki, M. Hadziabdic, D., Shoemaker D, Trigiano, R.N., Klingeman, W.E., Molnar, T.J., Simpson, S.A., Youngblood, R.C., Hulse-Kemp, A.M., Scheffler, B.E., and M.E. Staton. 2026. First chromosome-scale genome of *Cornus kousa* K2, G3 Genes|Genomes|Genetics, 2026, jkag229. https://doi.org/10.1093/g3journal/jkag229
3. Hamm, T.P., Trigiano, R.N., Nowicki, M., Moreau, E.L.P., Molnar ,T.J., Xiang. Q-YJ, Boggess, S.L., Hewezi, T., Klingeman, W.E., Hadziabdic, D. and M.E. Staton. 2026. Ornamental origins and genomic frontiers: a review of big-bracted dogwood research. Front. Plant Sci. 16:1735902. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2025.1735902

2025

4. Hamm, T.P., Boggess, S.L., Nowicki, M., Hadziabdic, D., Shoemaker, D., Trigiano, R.N., Klingeman, W.E., Molnar, T.J., Leebens-Mack, J., Harkess, A., Simpson, S.A., Youngblood, R.C., Hulse-Kemp, A.M., Scheffler, B.E., and M.E.Staton. 2025. Chromosome-scale assemblies of flowering dogwood cultivars enable identification of candidate genes regulating anthocyanin biosynthesis in leaves and bracts. BMC Plant Biol 26, 57 https://doi.org/10.1186/s12870-025-07836-5

2024

5. Jacobs, D.C., Revord. R.S., Capik, J.M., and T.J Molnar*. 2024. Eastern filbert blight resistant *Corylus avellana* identified from 20 years of germplasm introduction and evaluation at Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA. Frontiers in Plant Science 15:1502392. https://doi:10.3389/fpls.2024.1502392
6. Lombardoni, J.J., J. Honig, J. Vaiciunas, C. Kubik, J. Capik, S. Mehlenbacher, and T.J. Molnar*. 2024. Genotyping-by-Sequencing Shows High Genetic Diversity in *Corylus avellana* Germplasm Resistant to Eastern Filbert Blight. Tree Genetics & Genomes 20:45 https://doi.org/10.1007/s11295-024-01679-1
7. Jacobs, D., Revord. R.S., Capik, J.M., Mehlenbacher, S.A., and T.J Molnar*. 2024. Variable response of eastern filbert blight resistance sources in New Jersey. Frontiers in Plant Science.15: 2024 https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2024.1419265
8. Pfarr Moreau, E., A. Medberry, J. Honig, and T.J. Molnar. 2024. Genetic diversity analysis of big-bracted dogwood (*Cornus florida* and *C. kousa*) cultivars, interspecific hybrids, and wild-collected accessions using RADseq. PLOS ONE 19(7): e0307326. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0307326
9. Trigiano, R.N., S.L. Boggess, T.J. Molnar, E.L.P. Moreau, P.A. Wadl. 2024. 'Erica's Appalachian Sunrise': An apomitically derived cultivar from *Cornus florida* 'Comco No. 1' Cherokee Brave ™. HortScience. 59: 817-819. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI17833-24
10. Tobia, J., M. Muehlbauer, J. Honig, S.A. Mehlenbacher, J. Pscheidt, and T. Molnar*. 2024. Genetic Diversity Analysis of *Anisogramma anomala* in the Pacific Northwest and New Jersey. Plant Disease. 108:2422-2434 https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-08-21-1827-RE pdf link
11. Cohen, A.B., G. Cai, D.C. Price, T.J. Molnar, N. Zhang and B.I. Hillman. 2024. The massive 340 megabase genome of *Anisogramma anomala*, a biotrophic ascomycete that causes eastern filbert blight of hazelnut. BMC Genomics 25:347 https://doi.org/10.1186/s12864-024-10198-1

2023

12. Mehlenbacher, S.A., D.C. Smith, R.L. McCluskey, J.W. Snelling, T.J. Molnar, and A. Clare. 2023. OSU 541.147 hazelnut. HortScience 58:333-337 https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI16987-22

2022

13. Lombardoni, J.J. J.A. Honig, J.N. Vaiciunas, R.S. Revord, and T.J. Molnar*. 2022. Segregation of eastern filbert blight disease response and single nucleotide polymorphism markers in three European–American interspecific hybrid hazelnut populations. 2022. Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science. 147:196-206 https://doi.org/10.21273/JASHS05112-22
14. Pfarr Moreau, E.; J.A. Honig, and T.J. Molnar. 2022. High-density linkage mapping and identification of quantitative trait loci associated with powdery mildew resistance in flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*). Horticulturae 8:405 https://doi.org/10.3390/horticulturae8050405

2021

15. Mehlenbacher, S.A. and T.J. Molnar. 2021. Hazelnut (*Corylus*) breeding. Plant Breeding Reviews 45:9-141 https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119828235.ch2 pdf link

2020

16. Revord, R.S., S.T. Lovell, P. Brown., J.M. Capik, and T.J. Molnar. 2020. Using genotyping-by-sequencing derived SNPs to examine genetic structure and identify a core set of *Corylus americana* germplasm. 2020. Tree Genetics & Genomes 16:65 https://doi.org/10.1007/s11295-020-01462-y
17. Revord, R.S., S.T. Lovell, J.M. Capik, S.A. Mehlenbacher, and T.J. Molnar*. 2020. Eastern filbert blight resistance in American and interspecific hybrid hazelnuts. Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science 145:162-173 https://doi.org/10.21273/JASHS04732-19

2019

18. Honig, J. A., M.F. Muehlbauer, J.M. Capik, C. Kubik, J. N. Vaiciunas, S.A. Mehlenbacher, and T.J. Molnar. 2019. Identification and mapping of eastern filbert blight resistance quantitative trait loci in European hazelnut using double digestion restriction site associated DNA sequencing. Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science 144:295-304 https://doi.org/10.21273/JASHS04694-19
19. Revord, R, S. Lovell, T. Molnar, K. Wolz, and C. Mattia. 2019. Germplasm development of underutilized temperate U.S. tree crops. Sustainability 11:1546 https://doi.org/10.3390/su11061546
20. Muehlbauer, M.F., Tobia J., Honig, J.A., Zhang N., Hillman, B.I., Morey Gold, K., and T.J. Molnar. 2019. Population differentiation within *Anisogramma anomala* in North America. Phytopathololgy 109:1074-1082 https://doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-06-18-0209-R pdf link.
21. Molnar*, T.J., S.A. Mehlenbacher, P. leadbetter, and J.M. Capik. 2019. Multiple sources of eastern filbert blight resistance provide breeding utility in New Jersey. Journal of the American Pomological Society 73:178-192 pdf link

2018

22. Wadl, P.A., B.M. Mack, S.B. Beltz, G.G. Moore, R.E. Baird, T.A. Rinehart, T. J. Molnar, M.E. Staton, D. Hadziabdic, and R.N. Trigiano. 2018. Development of genomic resources for the powdery mildew, *Erysiphe pulchra*. Plant Disease 103:5, 804-807 https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-05-18-0719-A
23. Nowicki, M., S.L. Boggess, A.M. Saxton, D. Hadziabdic, Q-YJ Xiang, T. Molnar, M.L. Huff, M.E. Staton, Y. Zhao, and R. N. Trigiano. 2018. Haplotyping of *Cornus florida* and *C. kousa* chloroplasts: insights into species-level differences and patterns of plastic DNA variation in cultivars. PLoS ONE 13(10): e0205407 https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0205407
24. Muehlbauer, M., J.M. Capik, T.J. Molnar*, and S.A. Mehlenbacher. 2018. Assessment of the 'Gasaway' source of resistance to eastern filbert blight in New Jersey. Scientia Horticulturae 235:367-372 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scienta.2018.03.019

2017

25. Capik, JM, M. Muehlbauer, P. Wadl, and T.J. Molnar*. 2017. *Cornus kousa* 'Rutpink' (Scarlet Fire®) dogwood. HortScience 52:1438–1442 https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI12242-17

2016

26. Leadbetter, C.W., J.M. Capik, Mehlenbacher, S.A., and T.J. Molnar*. 2016. Hazelnut accessions from Russia and Crimea transmit resistance to eastern filbert blight. Journal of the American Pomological Society 70:92-109 pdf link

2015

27. Leadbetter, C.W., J.M. Capik, M. Pisetta, and T.J. Molnar*. 2015. Sources of resistance to eastern filbert blight in hazelnuts from the Republic of Georgia. Scientia Horticulturae 193:269–275 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scienta.2015.07.017
28. Mattera, R., T. Molnar, and L. Struwe. 2015. *Cornus* × *elwinortonii* and *Cornus* × *rutgersensis* (Cornaceae), new names for two artificially produced hybrids of big-bracted dogwoods. Phytokeys 55:93–111 http://phytokeys.pensoft.net/articles.php?id=5829

2014

29. Muehlbauer, M.F., J.A. Honig, J.M. Capik, J.N. Vaiciunas, and T.J. Molnar*. 2014. Characterization of eastern filbert blight-resistant hazelnut germplasm using microsatellite markers. Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science 139:399-432 https://doi.org/10.21273/JASHS.139.4.399
30. Capik, J.M. and T.J. Molnar*. 2014. Flowering and budbreak phenology of hazelnuts in New Jersey. HortTechnology 24:196-208 https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.24.2.196

2013

31. Zhang, N., Rossman, A. Y., Seifert, K., Bennett, J. W, Cai, G., Cai, L., Hillman, B., Hyde, K. D., Luo, J., Manamgoda, D., Meyer, W., Molnar, T., Schoch, C., Tadych, M., White, J. F., Jr. 2013. Impacts of the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi and plants (Melbourne Code) on the scientific names of plant pathogenic fungi. American Phytopathological Society, St. Paul, MN. https://doi.org/10.1094/APSFeature-2013-06
32. Cai, G., C. Leadbetter, M. Muehlbauer, T.J. Molnar, and B.I. Hillman. 2013. Genome-wide microsatellite identification in the fungus *Anisogramma anomala* using Illumina sequencing and genome assembly. PLoS ONE 8(11): e82408 https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0082408
33. Molnar, T.J.*, P.C. Kahn, T.M. Ford, C.J. Funk, and C. R. Funk. 2013. Tree crops, a permanent agriculture: concepts from the past for a sustainable future. Resources 2:457-488 https://doi.org/10.3390/resources2040457
34. Zaurov, D.Z., T.J. Molnar*, S.W. Eisenman, T.M. Ford, R.F. Mavlyanova, J.M. Capik, C.R. Funk, and J.C. Goffreda. 2013. Genetic resources of apricots (*Prunus armeniaca* L.) in Central Asia. HortScience 48:681–691 https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI.48.6.681
35. Hosseinpour, A., E. Seifi, and T.J. Molnar. 2013. Position and density of pistillate inflorescences of some hazelnut cultivars grown in Iran. Journal of Agricultural Science 5:131-135 https://doi.org/10.5539/jas.v5n6p125
36. Molnar, T.J., E. Walsh, J.M. Capik, V. Sathuvalli, S.A. Mehlenbacher, A.Y. Rossman, and N. Zhang. 2013. A real-time PCR assay for early detection of eastern filbert blight. Plant Disease 97:813–818 https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-11-12-1041-RE pdf link.
37. Capik, J.M., M. Muehlbauer, A. Novy, J.A. Honig, and T.J. Molnar*. 2013. Eastern filbert blight resistant hazelnuts from Russia, Ukraine, and Poland. HortScience 48:466–473 https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI.48.4.466
38. Hosseinpour, A., E. Seifi, D. Javadi, S.S. Ramezanpour, and T.J. Molnar. 2013. Nut and kernel characteristics of twelve hazelnut cultivars grown in Iran. Scientia Horticulturae 150:410–413 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scienta.2012.11.028

2012

39. Capik, J.M. and T.J. Molnar*. 2012. Assessment of host (*Corylus* sp.) resistance to eastern filbert blight in New Jersey. Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science 137:157–172 https://doi.org/10.21273/JASHS.137.3.157
40. Molnar, T.J.* and J.M. Capik. 2012. Eastern filbert blight susceptibility of American × European hazelnut progenies. HortScience 47:1412-1418 https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI.47.10.1412

2010

41. 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 94:1265 https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-06-10-0445

42. 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 https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI.45.5.832

2009

43. Abdushukur, A.K., G.M. Chernova, A.M. Rakhmonov, L.V. Nikolyi, E. Ablaeva, D.E. Zaurov, T.J. Molnar*, 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 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10722-009-9419-1 pdf link

2008

44. Ibragimov, P.S., V.A. Avtonomov, A.B. Amanturdiev, S.E. Namazov, D.E. Zaurov, T.J. Molnar*, 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 link

2007

45. 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 https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI.42.1.51

2005

46. 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. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI.40.6.1667
47. 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 http://dx.doi.org/10.2135/cropsci2004.0306
48. 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 http://dx.doi.org/10.2135/cropsci2004.0307
49. Mavlyanova, R.F., F.Kh. Abdullaev, P. Khodjiev, D.E. Zaurov, T.J. Molnar*, 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 https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI.40.1.10
50. Yezhov, V.N., A.V. Smykov, V.K. Smykov, S.Y. Khokhlov, D.E. Zaurov, S.A. Mehlenbacher, T. J. Molnar*, 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 https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI.40.1.5

2004

51. 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 https://doi.org/10.2135/cropsci2004.1481

2003

52. Bonos, S.A., W.A. Meyer, T.J. Molnar, and C.R. Funk. 2003. Registration of 'Jefferson' Kentucky bluegrass. Crop Science 43:738–739 https://doi.org/10.2135/cropsci2003.7380
53. 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 https://doi.org/10.2135/cropsci2003.4390

2001

54. 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

Peer reviewed publication in process (data collected, analyzed and nearing submission)

1. Hlubik, D., A. Teckam, R. Revord, J. Capik, and T.J. Molnar. 2025. Identification and mapping of QTLs associated with bloom phenology traits in hybrid hazelnuts. Tree Genetics & Genomes. *In progress*.
2. Hlubik, D. R. Revord, and T.J. Molnar. 2025. Long term response of *C. americana*, F1 and F2 hybrid hazelnut progenies to eastern filbert blight in New Jersey. HortScience. *In progress*.
3. Hlubik, D., J. Capik, R. Revord. and T.J. Molnar. 2025. Chilling and post rest heat requirements of European, American, and hybrid hazelnuts. Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science. *In progress*.

Book Chapters:

1. Botta, R. T.J. Molnar, E. Erdogan, N. Valentini, D. Torello Marinoni, S.A. Mehlenbacher. 2019. Hazelnut (*Corylus* spp.) breeding. In: Advances in Plant Breeding Strategies, Vol. 4. Pg 157-219 Nut and Beverage Crops. Al-Khayri, Jameel M., Jain, S. Mohan, Johnson, and Dennis V. (Eds.) Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-23112-5 pdf link
2. Molnar, T. 2011. *Corylus* L. 15-48. In: C. Kole (ed.) Wild crop relatives: genomic and breeding resources of forest trees (Volume 10). Springer-Verlag https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-21250-5_2 pdf link

Plant Patents and Plant Variety Protection Certificates:

1. Molnar, T.J., S.A. Mehlenbacher, and J.M. Capik. 2026. *Corylus* plant named 'RU1055'. United States Plant Patent Application applied for July 29, 2026. Atlantic™ hazelnut. Ser. No. 19/757,488.
2. Molnar, T.J., S.A. Mehlenbacher, and J.M. 2026. Capik *Corylus* plant named 'RU540'. United States Plant Patent Application applied for July 29, 2026. New Brunswick™ hazelnut. Ser. No. 19/757,566.
3. Molnar, T.J., S.A. Mehlenbacher, and J.M. Capik. 2026. *Corylus* plant named 'RU213'. United States Plant Patent Application applied for July 29, 2026. Hudson™ hazelnut. Ser. No. 19/757,738.
4. Molnar, T.J., S.A. Mehlenbacher, and J.M. Capik. 2026. *Corylus* plant named 'RU434'. United States Plant Patent Application applied for July 29, 2026. Cumberland™ hazelnut. Ser. No. 19/757,848.
5. Molnar, T.J., S.A. Mehlenbacher, and J.M. Capik. 2026. *Corylus* plant named 'RU129'. United States Plant Patent Application applied for July 29, 2026. Burlington™ hazelnut. Ser. No. 19/757,433.
6. Molnar, T.J. and J. Capik. 2025. *Cornus elwinortonii* tree designated 'Rutstar' United States Plant Patent Application. USPP37,068P2 October 28, 2025
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10. Medberry, A., T. Molnar, R. Patel, D. Kobayashi, J.M. Capik, and N. Patel. 2022. Bacterial Blight (*Xanthomonas arboricola*) of Hazelnut in New Jersey: Unique Symptoms and Recent Investigations. HortScience 57(9) S6 (Abst.)
11. Hlubik, D., J.M. Capik., and T.J. Molnar. 2022. Phenology of Interspecific Hybrid Hazelnut Mapping Populations in New Jersey. HortScience 57(9) S6 (Abst.)
12. Jacobs, D.C., J.M. Capik, and T.J. Molnar. 2022. Characterizing Expression of Major Gene Resistance to Eastern Filbert Blight in New Jersey. HortScience 57(9) S144 (Abst.)
13. Erin Pfarr-Moreau, E., A. Medberry, T. Molnar and J. Honig. 2022. Development of a KASP Genotyping Panel for Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*) Subspecies Differentiation. HortScience 57(9) S185 (Abst.)

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14. Jacobs, D.C., J.M. Capik and T.J. Molnar. 2021. Long Term Response of Eastern Filbert Blight Resistant Hazelnut Germplasm in New Jersey. HortScience 56(9) S96 (Abst.)
15. Hlubik, D., J.M. Capik, and T.J. Molnar. 2021. Investigation of Growing Degree Day Requirements of European, American, and Hybrid Hazelnuts in New Jersey. HortScience 56(9) S96 (Abst.)
16. Pfarr Moreau, E., J. Honig, J. Vaiciunas, J.M.Capik, and T. Molnar. 2021. Identification of a Quantitative Trait Locus for Powdery Mildew Resistance in Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*). HortScience 56(9) S33 (Abst.).

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17. Cohen, A.B., G. Cai, D. Price, L. He, N. Zhang, T.J. Molnar and B.I. Hillman. 2020. Genomic analysis of the eastern filbert blight fungus, *Anisogramma anomala*, provides insight to pathogen biology. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, Aug 10-14, 2020. https://apsnet.confex.com/apsnet/2020/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/17157
18. Hlubik, D., J.M. Capik, S. Mehlenbacher, T.J. Molnar. 2020. Eastern Filbert Blight Response of F_1 *Corylus americana* x *C. avellana* Selections and F_2 progenies. HortScience 55(9) S106. (Abst.)
19. Hlubik, D., J.M. Capik, T.J. Molnar. 2020. Investigating Chilling Requirements of European Hazelnut and Hybrid Hazelnut Selections in New Jersey. HortScience 55(9) S276. (Abstr.).
20. Hlubik, D. A. D'Angelo, J.M. Capik, and T.J. Molnar. 2020. Investigation of Nut Quality in Interspecific Hybrid Hazelnuts. HortScience 55(9) S443. (Abst.).
21. Lombardoni, J.J., J. Honig, J. Vaiciunas, and T. Molnar. 2020. Segregation of Eastern Filbert Blight (*Anisogramma anomala*) Disease Response and Single Nucleotide Polymorphism Markers in Three Hybrid European-American Interspecific Hazelnut Populations. HortScience 55(9) S105. (Abst.)
22. Pfarr, E., J. Vaiciunas, J.M. Capik, and T.J. Molnar. 2020. Powdery Mildew Response of a Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) Quantitative Trait Loci Mapping Population. HortScience 55(9) S122. (Abst.)
23. Mayberry, A., S.A. Mehlenbacher, J.M. Capik, and T.J. Molnar. 2020. Benefits and Drawbacks of American Hazelnut Pollenizers to Expand the Commercial Hazelnut Production Range. HortScience 55(9) S292. (Abst.)

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24. Mayberry, A. J. Capik, and T.J. Molnar. 2019. Establishing a core collection of *Corylus americana* from wild germplasm for hazelnut breeding and pollenizer efforts. The Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference; Hunt Valley, MD. Proceeding Volume 4, January 8-10, 2019. (Abst.)

25. E. Pfarr*, J. Vaiciunas, C. Kubik, J. Honig, J. Capik, and T.J. Molnar. 2019. Using simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers and open pollinated seedlings for quantitative trait loci (QTL) mapping population development in Cornus florida. The Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference; Hunt Valley, MD. Proceeding Volume 4, January 8-10, 2019.(Abst.)
26. Dunlevy, A., M.P. Gandler, D. Hlubik, J.M. Capik, and T. J. Molnar. 2019. Examining pathogenic variation and host plant response to eastern filbert blight in hazelnut cultivars protected by the 'Gasaway' resistance gene. HortScience. 54(9) Se 238. (Abst.)
27. Hlubik, D., J.M.Capik, A. D'Angelo, A. Mayberry, and T.J. Molnar. 2019. Evaluation of hybrid hazelnut phenology to determine usefulness as pollenizers. HortScience 54(9) Se 329. (Abst.)
28. Pfarr, E.; J. Vaiciunas; C. Kubik; J. Capik; J. Honig; and T. Molnar. 2019. Genotyping-by-sequencing diversity study of big-bracted dogwood (*Cornus* ssp.) cultivars and wild-collected accessions. HortScience 54(9) Se 72. (Abst.)
29. Mayberry, A. J. Capik, S.A. Mehlenbacher, and T.J. Molnar. 2019. Evaluating American hazelnuts for use as cold hardy pollenizers in European hazelnut orchards. HortScience 54(9) Se 176. (Abst.).
30. Muehlbauer, M., J. Honig, J.M. Capik, and T.J. Molnar. 2019. Evaluation and correlation of kernel characteristics and eastern filbert blight response to genetic backgrounds of hazelnut germplasm from Turkey and the Baltic Region. HortScience 54(9) Se 177. (Abst.)

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32. Gandler, M., E. Milan, J.M. Capik, and T. Molnar. 2018. Long-term observation of resistance sources to eastern filbert blight in New Jersey. Proceedings of the 3rd Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference 3:28 https://www.newss.org/wp-content/uploads/2018-NEPPSC-Proceedings_FINAL.pdf (Annual Meeting of the Northeastern branch of the American Society for Horticultural Science. Philadelphia, PA, Jan. 6, 2018)
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34. Pfarr, E., J. Capik, and T. Molnar. 2018. Preliminary powdery mildew response of big-bracted dogwood cultivars (*Cornus* spp.) in New Jersey. Proceedings of the 3rd Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference 3:27 https://www.newss.org/wp-content/uploads/2018-NEPPSC-Proceedings_FINAL.pdf (Annual Meeting of the Northeastern branch of the American Society for Horticultural Science. Philadelphia, PA, Jan. 6, 2018)
35. Mayberry, A., J. Capik, E. Milan, D.J. Hlubik, M. Gandler, and T.Molnar. 2018. Flowering phenology and phenotypic characterization of commercially valuable traits in wild American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*). Proceedings of the 3rd Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference 3:47 https://www.newss.org/wp-content/uploads/2018-NEPPSC-Proceedings_FINAL.pdf (Annual Meeting of the Northeastern branch of the American Society for Horticultural Science. Philadelphia, PA, Jan. 6, 2018
36. Mayberry, A., J.A. Honig, J. Capik, J.N. Vaiciunas, and T.J. Molnar. 2018. Determining chloroplast haplotype variation of wild American hazelnut. HortScience 53(9):S44 (Abst.).
37. Gandler, M. E. Milan, J.M. Capik, and T. Molnar. 2018. Long-term observation of resistance sources to eastern filbert blight in New Jersey. HortScience 53(9):S331 (Abst.).

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39. Poster: Pfarr, E.; J. Honig; J. Vaiciunas; C. Kubik; J. Capik; T. Molnar. 2018. Quantitative trait loci (QTL) mapping population development in *Cornus florida* using open pollinated seedlings and simple sequence repeat markers. The 6th International Workshop on the Genetics of Tree-Parasite Interactions; Mount Sterling, OH.

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41. Mayberry, A., J. Capik, and T.J. Molnar. 2017. Phenotypic characterization of wild American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*) germplasm to support future hybrid hazelnut breeding. HortScience 52(9):S3. (Abstr.) [Originally published in: Proc. (Vol. 2). The Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference.Flessner, M.L, (ed.). 2017].
42. Muehlbauer, M., D. Hlubik, and T.J. Molnar. 2017. Characterization of the effects of hybrid hazelnut pollenizers (*Corylus americana* × *C. avellana*) on the oil content and profiles of several European hazelnut (*C. avellana*) cultivars. HortScience 52(9):S6. (Abst.) [Originally published in: Proc. (Vol. 2). The Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference. Flessner, M.L, (ed.). 2017].
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44. Tobia, J., M. Muehlbauer, J. Honig, J. Pscheidt, and T.J. Molnar. 2017. Cluster analysis of *Anisogramma anomala* isolates collected from the Pacific Northwest and New Jersey. (Abstr.) Phytopathology 107:S5.125. https://doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-107-12-S5.125
45. Muehlbauer, M., D. J. Honig, and T.J. Molnar. Development and use of chloroplast simple sequence repeat markers for the identification of big-bracted *Cornus* species. Plant and Animal Genome XXV, San Diego, CA, January 2017.

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46. Feldman, P. J. Capik and T.J. Molnar. 2016. Investigating eastern filbert blight response in hazelnut progenies from new sources of resistance. HortScience 51(9):S6 (Abst.).
47. Muehlbauer, M., A. Morgan, J. Capik, D. Hlubik, and T. Molnar. 2016. Assessment of the effect of interspecific hybrid hazelnut pollen on nut set of European hazelnut in New Jersey. HortScience 51(9):S4 (Abst.).
48. Capik, J., M. Muehlbauer, P. Wadl, and T.J. Molnar. 2016. Using SSR markers to confirm the parentage of the new dogwood *Cornus kousa* 'Rutpink' Scarlet Fire. HortScience 51(9):S4 (Abst.).
49. Muehlbauer, M., T. Molnar, J. Capik, D. Ward, and D. Hlubik. 2016. Pollenizers affect Kernel Characteristics in European Hazelnuts (*Corylus avellana*). HortScience 51(9):S185(Abst.).

2015

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51. Davis, J., M. Muehlbauer, J. Capik, and T.J. Molnar. 2015. Implementation of real-time PCR to track the proliferation of *Anisogramma anomala* (eastern filbert blight) in juvenile hazelnut seedlings. HortScience 50(9):S6 (Abstr.)
52. Leadbetter, C., J. Capik, and T.J. Molnar. 2015. Resistance to eastern filbert blight in progenies from new hazelnut germplasm collected in Russia and Ukraine. HortScience 50(9):S7 (Abstr.)
53. Molnar, T.J., C. Leadbetter, M. Muehlbauer, M. Pisetta, and J. Capik. 2015. Hazelnuts from the Republic of Georgia: the search for eastern filbert blight resistance continues. HortScience 50(9):S13 (Abstr.)
54. Muehlbauer, M., J. Davis, and T.J. Molnar. 2015. Optimization of a high-throughput assay enabling early detection of *Anisogramma anomala* in hazelnuts. HortScience 50(9):S176 (Abstr.)

55. Molnar, T.J., J. Capik, and M. Muehlbauer. 2015. 'Gasaway' source of resistance to eastern filbert blight provides a predictable level of tolerance but not complete resistance in New Jersey. HortScience 50(9):S410 (Abstr.)
56. Wadl, P.A., M. Staton, T. Rinehart, T. Molnar, and R. Baird. 2015. Development of microsatellite markers from *Erysiphe pulchra* (dogwood powdery mildew) for analyzing genetic diversity. HortScience 50(9):S174 (Abstr.).

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59. Morey, K., M.F. Muehlbauer, J. Capik, J. Honig, and T. Molnar. 2014. Genetic Characterization of new eastern filbert blight-resistant hazelnut seedlings from Turkey, Latvia, and Lithuania. HortScience 49(9):S8 (Abstr.).
60. Muehlbauer, M., T.J. Molnar, J. Honig, K. Morey, and N. Zhang. 2014. Genetic diversity of *Anisogramma anomala* and its implications for breeding eastern filbert blight resistant hazelnuts. 2014. HortScience 49(9):S134 (Abstr.)
61. Mattera, R., J. Honig, J. Vaiciunas, J. Capik, and T. Molnar. 2014. Comparative genetic diversity analysis of big-bracted dogwoods. HortScience 49(9):S168 (Abstr.)

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62. Muehlbauer, M., J. Capik, J. Honig, G. Cai, B. Hillman, and T.J. Molnar. 2013 Assessing genetic diversity of *Anisogramma anomala* isolates found throughout North America. Phytopathology. 103:S2.100 (Abstr.)
63. Muehlbauer, M., J. Honig, J. Vaiciunas, J. Capik, and T.J. Molnar. 2013. Population structure analysis of eastern filbert blight resistant hazelnut (*Corylus* spp.) germplasm. HortScience 48(9):S191 (Abstr.)
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65. Leadbetter, C., T.J. Molnar, and B. Crawford. 2013. Growing the intern program as the Rutgers Gardens. HortScience 48(9):S2 (Abstr.)
66. Capik, J.M. and T.J. Molnar. 2013. Flowering phenology of eastern filbert blight-resistant hazelnut accessions in New Jersey. HortScience 48(9):S2 (Abstr.)
67. Molnar, T., M. Muehlbauer, J. Honig, J. Vaiciunas, and J. Capik. 2013. Molecular tools support the efficient utilization of new hazelnut germplasm in breeding. HortScience 48(9):S8 (Abstr.)
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70. Leadbetter, C.W., J. Capik, G. Cai, B. Hillman, and T.J. Molnar. 2012. Genetic diversity and population structure of the eastern filbert blight pathogen (*Anisogramma anomala*) and its implications on hazelnut breeding. HortScience 47(9):S6 (Abstr.)
71. Capik, J. and T.J. Molnar. 2012. Assessment of host resistance to eastern filbert blight (*Anisogramma anomala*) in New Jersey. HortScience 47(9):S153 (Abstr.)
72. Muehlbauer, M., J. Honig, J. Vaiciunas, and T. Molnar. 2012. Genetic diversity and cluster analysis of eastern filbert blight resistant hazelnut (*Corylus* spp.) germplasm. HortScience 47(9):S362 (Abstr.)

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74. Leadbetter, C., G. Cai, B. Hillman and T.J. Molnar. 2011. Utilizing microsatellite markers to explore the genetic diversity of eastern filbert blight (*Anisogramma anomala*). Abstracts of the annual meeting of the Northeast Division of the American Phytopathological Society. New Brunswick, NJ. October 12-14, 2011.
75. Molnar, T. and N. Zhang. 2011. Application of a real-time PCR assay for detection of eastern filbert blight in hazelnut breeding. Phytopathology 101(6):S123 (Abstr.).
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77. Cai, G., C. Leadbetter, T. Molnar, and B.I. Hillman. 2011. Genome-wide identification and characterization of microsatellite markers in *Anisogramma anomala*. Phytopathology 101(6):S25 (Abstr.)
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79. Molnar, T.J. and J. Capik. 2011. Utilization of Wild *Corylus* in the Genetic Improvement of Hazelnut, p. 14-15. Abstracts of the 1st International Symposium of Wild Relatives of subtropical and Temperate Fruit and Nut Crops. Davis, California, USA. March 19-23, 2011.
80. Molnar, T.J. and J. Capik. 2011. Breeding for eastern filbert blight resistance in hazelnuts. HortScience 46(9):S8 (Abstr.).
81. Capik, J. and T.J. Molnar. 2011. Breeding ornamental hazelnuts. HortScience 46(9):S3. (Abstr.)
82. Leadbetter, C., T.J. Molnar and J.M. Capik. 2011. Screening new hazelnut germplasm for resistance to eastern filbert blight. HortScience 46(9):S4 (Abstr.)
83. Molnar, T.J, J. Capik, J.C. Goffreda, and E. Orton. 2008. Developing new woody ornamental and edible landscape plants at Rutgers. HortScience 43:593 (Abstr.)
84. Baxer, S.N. J.A. Crouch, C. R. Funk, T.J. Molnar, and B.I. Hillman. 2008. Characterizing variability in *Anisogramma anomala* populations. HortScience 43:593 (Abstr.)

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2005

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2004

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88. Funk, C.R., G. Zhang, and T.J. Molnar. 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.
89. 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.

Invited seminars (2016-2026)

2026

1. New Hazelnut Cultivars from Rutgers University: Introducing an Integrated Cultivar System. Annual Meeting of the Northern Nut Growers Association. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA. August 2, 2026. ~150 in attendance. Slides.
2. Long Term Investment in Plant Breeding Yields Substantial Breakthroughs in Hazelnuts and Dogwoods. Rutgers Innovation Showcase March 19, 2026. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ https://research.rutgers.edu/innovation-showcase#fullagenda
3. Breeding Dogwoods for Beauty and Resilience at Rutgers University. Plant Science and Landscape Architecture Seminar Series, University of Connecticut. March 13, 2026 Spring Seminar Series Storrs, CT, March 13, 2026 – host John C. Inguagiato john.inguagiato@uconn.edu
4. New Jersey Tree Conference. Feb 27, 2026. Rutgers Tree Breeding Update. Harrah's Atlantic City. 1 hour presentation. https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/e8gwmk69lw2w0j3yzg09q/2026-GSTC-Schedules.pdf?rlkey=7dqfnkbx5hxneyuas188n6h38&dl=0

2025

5. Fall Hazelnut Growers Meeting at Foggy Bottom Tree farm. Title: New Cultivars and Harvest and Processing Overview. October 25, 2025. 60 attendees. Columbus, New Jersey.
6. Hazelnut Workshop at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Farm. Title: Rutgers University Hazelnut Program and New Cultivars. University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry. Oct. 17, 2025. 65 attendees. Columbia, Missouri.
7. Hazelnut Workshop at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Farm. Title: Harvesting and Processing Hazelnuts. University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry. Oct. 17, 2025. 65 attendees. Columbia, Missouri.
8. New Jersey Agriculture Leadership Development Program of the Rutgers Continuing Education Program. Title: Hazelnuts for New Jersey. January 29, 2025. 25 attendees. New Brunswick, New Jersey.
9. Rutgers Home Gardener School. Rutgers Continuing Education Program. Title: Home Landscape Propagation. March 15, 2025 https://cpe.rutgers.edu/home-gardeners-school 40 attendees in 75-minute lecture on Plant Propagation. New Brunswick, New Jersey.
10. Keynote Address. Ontario Hazelnut Association Annual Symposium. March 20, 2025. University of Guelph. Title: Rutgers Hazelnut Breeding Program: New Cultivars and Current Research. Guelph, Ontario, Canada
11. "Lunch and Learn Program" at the Rutgers Gardens. Title: Breeding Dogwoods at Rutgers: A behind the scenes look at improving our native dogwood *Cornus florida*. April 23, 2025. New Brunswick, New Jersey.
12. Helix Discovery Showcase. Title: Eastern U.S. Hazelnuts: from Vision to Reality (in a Nutshell). April 29, 2025. New Brunswick Performing Arts Center, 11 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

2024

13. South Jersey Fruit Grower Twilight meeting. Title: An update on hazelnuts and new cultivars from Rutgers University. April 9, 2024. Clayton, NJ.
14. Annual Meeting of the Northern Nut Growers Association. Title: Easten filbert blight disease of hazelnuts: approaches to manage this devastating disease in the long term. July 22, 2024, Syracuse, NY.
15. Host and speaker at 2024 Rutgers NJAES Hazelnut Growers Meeting. Title: Updates on hazelnut breeding at Rutgers University. Cook Campus, IFNH Building classroom portion then HF3 tour and machine demonstration. 50 attendees. Aug. 14, 2024. New Brunswick, New Jersey.
16. NJ Veteran Farmers course on hazelnuts. Title: Hazelnuts and an update on new cultivars. 25 attendees. Oct 24, 2024. Clerico Farms, Somerset, NJ.
17. Fall Hazelnut Growers Meeting at Foggy Bottom Tree farm. Title: Rutgers Hazelnut Project Updated. 50 attendees. Nov. 2, 2024. Foggy Bottom Tree Farm, Columbus, NJ.

2023

18. 2023 Agroforestry Symposium, Demystifying perennial crop improvement and integration. Title: Hazelnuts. University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry. January 18, 2023. 170 attendees. Via Zoom.
19. Regenerative Agriculture and Growers' Short Course. Title: Eastern Filbert Blight: Breeding for resistance gives insight into the future of disease management. January 27, 2023. January 26-28, 2023. British Columbia, Canada. Via Zoom but invited to attend in person
20. Annual Conference of the Northern Nut Growers Association (joint meeting with the Chestnut Growers of America and The Walnut Council). Title: An update on new hazelnut cultivars from Rutgers and strategies for propagation. University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry. July 24, 2023. Columbia, MO.
21. New York Nut Growers Association Fall Meeting. Title: Update on Rutgers University's Hazelnut Breeding Program. Riverhead (Long Island), NY. Oct 14., 2023.
22. Hazelnut growers meeting at Foggy Bottom Tree Farm. Title: New Developments from the Rutgers University Hazelnut Breeding Program. Columbus, NJ. Nov. 4, 2023.
23. Rutgers Master Gardeners General Meeting. Title: So, You Want to Multiply that Plant? November 8, 2023. 1 hour seminar on the art and science of plant propagation. New Brunswick, NJ.

2022

24. 32nd Annual Winter Conference Northeast Organic Farmers Association. The Future of New Jersey's Food System. Title: Hazelnuts: A tasty and sustainable addition to the food landscape of the eastern United States. January 29-30, 2022. Online. Virtual meeting.
25. Annual Conference of the Northern Nut Growers Association. Title: Advances in hazelnuts. Penn State University Berks Campus, Reading, PA. Aug 8, 2022.
26. International Plant Propagators Society Eastern Region Annual Conference Title: *Cornus* and *Corylus* breeding at Rutgers University. Sept 28, 2022, Hyatt Regency Long Island, NY.
27. The American Chestnut Foundation PA/NJ chapter Fall meeting. Title: Rutgers University hazelnut breeding program: exciting progress and new cultivars for the Mid-Atlantic region. Nov 12, 2022. Lord Stirling Park, Basking Ridge, NJ

2020

28. Southern Nursery Association Plants Conference. Title: Rutgers University tree breeding program: here come the hazelnuts (for nuts) and next steps after Scarlet Fire® dogwood. January 7, 2020. Baltimore, MD.
29. Rhododendron Society of the United States Princeton Chapter. Title: Rutgers University tree breeding program: hazelnuts and dogwoods. Feb. 16, 2020. Rutgers University.
30. 2020 Tree Symposium hosted by The Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Title: Grafting techniques for tree propagation. Morris County, NJ. November 24, 2020.
31. 2020 Perennial Farm Gathering hosted by Savanna Institute. Title: Exploring Hazelnuts. https://www.savannainstitute.org/2020-pfg-html/Invite Perennial Farmer Gathering SI update Dec 7, 2020. Virtual meeting.

2019

32. Northeast Organic Farming Association New Jersey (NOFA NJ) Annual conference. Title: Nuts for New Jersey. January 27, 2019. Douglas Student Center, Cook Campus, Rutgers, New Brunswick, NJ.
33. Millersville Native Plants Conference. Title*: Corylus americana*: an incredible edible native plant and the key to expanding commercial hazelnut production in colder regions. Millersville University, Millersville, PA. June 6, 2019.
34. 8th Annual Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference: Navigating Clean Water Science. Title: Hazelnuts in the northeast: overview and update (part of workshop "Growing Edible Tree Nuts in the Northeast"). October 15, 2019. Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA.
35. 2019 Tree Symposium at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Title: Exciting progress breeding *Cornus* and *Corylus* at Rutgers University. Morris County, NJ. November 9, 2019.

36. Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, NY, presentation to Staff. Title: Hazelnuts! A new crop for the northeast. Also, gave presentation on hazelnut at Blue Hill restaurant Chef's meeting. November 11, 2019.

2018

37. Central Jersey Turf and Ornamental Institute. Title: New Rutgers Ornamental Plants and Nut trees for New Jersey Landscapes. March 1, 2018. Battleground Country Club Manalapan, NJ.
38. Princeton Agricultural Association Meeting. Title: Hazelnuts: a new industry for NJ and Beyond. March 22, 2018.
39. Rutgers Undergraduate Food Science Club. Title: Hazelnuts: a new industry for NJ. April 2, 2018.
40. NOFA New Jersey Firefly Farm growers meeting. Title: The ins and outs of grafting trees. Princeton, NJ. April 20, 2018.
41. Hazelnut Master class; Catholic University of the Sacred Heart. Title: Hazelnut breeding and new cultivars. Piacenza, Italy. May 14-14, 2018.
42. The 2018 Woody Plants Conference. Title: The Rutgers Woody Ornamentals Breeding program: exciting progress in *Cornus* and *Corylus*. Swarthmore Scott Arboretum. July 20, 2018.
43. Northern Nut Growers Association annual meeting. Title: EFB a complicated nemesis. Le Boulchelon resort Saint-Paulin, Québec, Canada. August 5-8, 2018
44. Brookdale Park Conservancy member meeting. Title: Hazelnuts! Essex County, NJ. Sept. 18, 2018.
45. Southern Region International Plant Propagators Society. Title: Breeding Powdery Mildew Resistant Dogwoods and More at Rutgers University. Oct 21-24, 2018, Chattanooga, TN.
46. New York Hortus Club November meeting. Title: Going nuts continuing a 40-year-old ornamental breeding program. NYC, NY. Nov. 20, 2018.

2017

47. Essex County master gardener meeting. Title: Rutgers Hybrid Dogwood Breeding Program: it's past, present, and future. title: March 11, 2017.
48. Union County Master Tree Stewards meeting. Title: Hazelnuts: Developing an Old Crop for a New Region. April 5, 2017.
49. Rare Find Nursery invited lecture series presentation. Title: The Rutgers University Woody Ornamentals Breeding Program: Introducing Scarlet Fire® dogwood. May 20, 2017
50. Essex County Master gardener meeting. Title: Hazelnut: a new industry for New Jersey and Beyond. Nov. 11, 2017
51. 2017 Green Expo turf & landscape. Title: New dogwood and ornamental hazelnut varieties for the landscape. Borgata Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey, December 6, 2017.

2016

52. University of Guelph Seminar Series. Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph, ON, Canada Title: Hazelnuts: Developing an Old Crop for a New Region. Feb. 17, 2016.
53. Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Convention. Title: Developing resistance to Eastern Filbert Blight in Hazelnuts. Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. Feb. 18, 2016.
54. Annual Meeting of the Northern Nut Growers Association. Title: Ornamental hazelnuts: developing edible landscape plants as bridge to backyard nut growing. Nebraska City, Nebraska. July 31 - August 3, 2016.
55. Brookdale Park Conservancy meeting. Title: Dogwoods! Essex County, NJ. May 25, 2016 http://www.brookdaleparkconservancy.org/blog/2016/5/18/rutgers-dogwood-talk
56. SEGreen Plant Conference. Title: The Rutgers University Woody Ornamental and Nut Tree Breeding Program: New Plants and Future Directions. Athens Georgia Aug. 31-Sept 1, 2-16. http://www.segreen.org/plant-conference.html
57. International Plant Propagators Southern Region annual meeting. Title: Going nuts while continuing a 40-year-old woody ornamental breeding program: an update on *Cornus* and *Corylus* breeding. Virginia Beach, VA. Oct. 24, 2016.

58. New Jersey Master Gardener Annual conference. Title: Hazelnuts: developing an old crop for a new region. October 1, 2016, Cook Campus, New Brunswick, NJ
59. Hunterdon county Master Gardeners fall meeting. Title: Hazelnuts: a new crop for New Jersey. Nov 9, 2016.

Service

- Secretary and a Member of the Board of Directors of the Northern Nut Growers Association from 2007-2018. 2024-current, member of the NNGA nominations committee.
- President of the Northeast Branch of the American Society for Horticultural Science in 2014.
- Scientific Committee for the International Hazelnut Congress (ISHS) and Editorial Board (2022, 2025).
- Membership committee of the International Plant Propagators Society (2016-2018).
- Co-Chair of the Southern Plant Conference of the Southern Nursery Association (2018-2020).
- Chair of the USDA National Plant Germplasm System Chestnut, Hazelnut, and Pistachio Crop Germplasm Committee (2019-current).
- Scientific Advisor for Mountain Hazelnuts in Bhutan, a public-private-community partnership with the Royal Government of Bhutan.
- Scientific Advisor for Avellana Agroforestry Cooperative, a hazelnut growing co-op in New Jersey established in 2025.
- Founding and contributing member of the Hybrid Hazelnut Consortium, a collaborative breeding and research initiative between Rutgers, Oregon State University, the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, the University of Missouri, and the Arbor Day Foundation started in 2008.
- Participated in two USDA NIFA grant review panels for the ARFI (2019) and SCRI (2017) programs.
- Peer reviewer for the USDA ARS Office of Scientific Quality Review's peer review panel 301 Panel 5a (2023).
- Reviewer for the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance Research Program (2019).
- *Ad hoc* reviews for manuscripts of the journals of the ASHS and the APS
- Co-editor of the Frontiers in Plant Science issue on hazelnuts.
- Editorial Advisory Board of Critical Reviews in Plant Science since 2023.
- I was invited by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) to thoroughly revise their datasheet on *Anisogramma anomala*, considered an A1 Quarantine pest (Annex II A).
- I have served on the Plant Biology Department's steering committee since 2022.
- New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Research Farm Advisory committee since 2022.
- I participated in the hiring committees of two tenure-track faculty positions, as well as participated in five staff position hires.
- I currently serve on the mentoring committee of one junior faculty member (Gina Sideli) and served on the committee of a faculty member now tenured (T. Besancon).
- Member of the Plant Biology Graduate Program and member of admissions committee from 2016 to 2019
- Rutgers Plant Biology Department's merit evaluation committee in 2024.

Hatch and Multi-state project

1. Hatch Project NJ12138. Title: Genetic Improvement of Woody Plants (Trees and Shrubs) for Ornamental Uses and Food Production. PI: Thomas Molnar. CoPIs: Brad Hillman and Josh Honig. Initiated 10/01/2004, new project start date: 6/15/16-current.

Student Mentoring (primary advisor)

Masters

1. Dan Jacobs, degree 2024, thesis link
2. Patrick Bell, degree 2024 thesis link
3. Emil Milan, degree 2024 (non-thesis Masters)
4. Robert Mattera, degree 2016 thesis link
5. John Capik, degree 2014 thesis link

PhD

1. Erin Quinn, January 2026 - current
2. Emil Vesper, January 2026 - current
3. David Hlubik, degree 2024, diss. link
4. Erin Pfarr Moreau, degree 2022, diss. link
5. Justin Lombardoni degree 2021, diss. link
6. Megan Muehlbauer, degree 2017, diss. link

Student Mentoring (committee member)

Masters

1. Aubrey Teckham (current 2024, University of Missouri, Ronald Revord primary advisor)
2. Matthew Milburn, degree 2023, Rutgers, Thomas Orton primary advisor, thesis link.
3. Veysel Donderalp, degree 2019, Rutgers, Thomas Orton primary advisor

PhD

1. Radhika Patel (Rutgers, Donald Kobayashi primary advisor) 2022-current
2. Trinity Hamm degree 2025 (University of Tennessee, Meg Staton primary advisor)
3. Alanna Cohen (Rutgers, Brad Hillman primary advisor), degree Dec 2024 diss. link
4. Ronald Revord (Univ. of Illinois, Sarah Lovell primary advisor), degree 2019, diss. link
5. William Reichert (Rutgers, Jim Simon primary advisor), degree 2018 diss. link

George H. Cook Senior Thesis Advisor (Undergraduate) (details on program here)

1. Daniel Jacobs 2021
2. Ash Dunlevy 2021
3. Adam D'Angelo 2020
4. Janine Tobia 2018
5. David Hlubik 2018
6. Julianne Davis 2016
7. Kaitlyn Morey 2015

Media Coverage and Other Press

2026

1. Asbury Park Press. How Rutgers used science to turn hazelnuts into a money maker. David p. Willis. June 24, 2026. https://archive.ph/KLUmR
2. New Jersey Digest. New Jersey Lawmakers Want to Name a State Nut—There's Actually a Good Reason Why. Peter Candia. June 19, 2026.
3. NY Post. NJ gets roasted over 'nutty' plan to make hazelnut the official state nut: 'Why on earth?'. Chris Nesi. June 19, 2026.
4. NJ.com. A bizarre and, well, nutty fight is happening over naming N.J.'s official state nut. https://www.nj.com/news/2026/06/a-bizarre-and-well-nutty-fight-is-happening-over-naming-njs-official-state-nut.html Gavin Schweiger. June 19, 2026.
5. New Jersey Monitor. Farmers hope to make New Jersey the hazelnut capital of America. Dana DiFilippo. June 16, 2026.

2025

6. News 12 New Jersey. Made in New Jersey: Rutgers' Scarlet Fire dogwoods now sold worldwide with 40,000 trees shipped each year. Nick Meidanis. June 2, 2025.
7. Patch Magazine. Rutgers professor invents dogwood that blooms in late May, 'sparkles' in sun. Carly Baldwin. May 23, 2025.
8. Rutgers Today. Plant breeders stage a dogwood revolution, creating hardy varieties that sparkle. Kitta MacPherson. May 20, 2025.
9. New Jersey Farmer Magazine. Just another 'nutty' idea? (Off the Secretary's Desk). Ed Wengryn, NJ Secretary of Agriculture. March 01, 2025.

10. From the Forest Radio Show "FROM THE FOREST ON WIOX ROXBURY, NY" live on air 6:00 to 7:00 PM "Hazelnuts with Thomas Molnar" Feb 13, 2025, Podcast released Feb 20, 2025.
11. Newsroom – a product of the School of Biological Sciences and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Office of Public Outreach and Communications. Feb 2025 Rutgers School SEBS alumni of the month Thomas Molnar. Staff writer. Feb. 2025

2024

12. News 12 New Jersey. Rutgers University hazelnut farm receives grant to help make NJ a hazelnut production hub. Amanda Eustice. Dec. 18, 2024.
13. Rutgers Today. Chocolate maker Ferrero supports Rutgers research to bolster U.S. hazelnut farming. Staff writer. Nov. 25, 2024.
14. Ambrook Research (Offrange). We can grow our own hazelnuts, finally. Ben Seal. Nov. 15, 2024.
15. Ferrero Candy Company Press release. Ferrero invests in U.S. hazelnut farming with research grants to Rutgers University and Oregon State University programs. Staff writer. Nov. 16, 2024
16. Lancaster Farmer Magazine. Hazelnut farming takes root in New Jersey with help from military veterans. Dave Lefever. Oct. 29, 2024
17. Tap Into - East Brunswick. From Rutgers to Razza: the journey of an East Brunswick hazelnut. Anika Bahirwani. July 18, 2024.
18. The Forest Garden Podcast. Hazelnuts with Tom Molnar. Hosted by Ben Bishop & Mike Amato. Feb. 12. 2024.

2023

19. Poor Poles Almanac Podcast. Exploring hazelnut cultivation: innovation and challenges with Dr. Tom Molnar. Hosted by Andy Ciccone and Elliott Evans. Dec. 4, 2023.
20. Jersey Best Magazine. Nut-ting Compares: Hazelnut breeding program at Rutgers marks birth of the industry on the East Coast. Hank Zona. Nov. 2023.
21. Country Living Magazine. 11 Types of Dogwood Trees and Shrubs for Any Yard. Arricca Sansone with contributions from T. Molnar. Aug. 28, 2023

2022

22. Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA) video series. New Jersey Hazelnut Processing with Tom Molnar. Jan. 30, 2022.
23. Rutgers Today. Scarlet Fire® dogwood created at Rutgers takes home gold. Trevor Rutledge-Leverenz. Feb. 22, 2022
24. Morning Ag Clips. Scarlet Fire® Dogwood created at Rutgers takes home gold. Staff writer. February 27, 2022.
25. Digger Magazine (Oregon Association of Nurseries). The shifting shade tree market. Tracy Ilene Miller. July 21, 2022.

2019

26. CBS News NY Local News. New Jersey researchers making strides in the commercial growth of hazelnuts New Jersey. Vanessa Murdock. Aired December 18, 2019 5:00 PM.
27. WHYY.ORG/NPR Are hazelnuts New Jersey's next big cash crop? Grant Hill. November 28, 2019.
28. Food and Wine Magazine. What are hybrid hazelnuts, and why are chefs obsessed with them? Sara Ventiera. Oct. 23, 2019.
29. The Two Rivers Times. A hazelnut harvest in Monmouth? Farmers want to crack that nut. Gretchen C. Van Benthuysen. Oct. 11, 2019.
30. Central Jersey.com. Monmouth County partners with Rutgers to develop research orchard. Staff writer. Oct. 1, 2019.
31. Digger Magazine (Oregon Association of Nurseries). Satisfying in small spaces. By Tracy Ilene Miller. Cover photo and mention of Scarlet Fire® dogwood in article. June 24, 2019.
32. Country Folks Magazine. Experimenting with hazelnuts. Jane Primerano. May 13, 2019.
33. Grist.org. Consider the hazelnut. Nathanael Johnson. April 15, 2019.

34. NPR.org All Things Considered. One Man's quest to protect a rare kind of hazelnut tree. Darius Rafieyan and Stacey Yankek Smith. NPR Indicator. April 11, 2019.
35. NPR.org Plant Money. 20-year quest to save Nutella. Stacey Yanek Smith and Darius Rafieyan NPR Planet Money. April 3, 2019.

2018

36. American Farmer Magazine. Molnar, assistants have New Jersey on cusp of entering hazelnut market. Richard Skelley. Nov. 29, 2018.
37. American Farmer Magazine. When in Rome: Molnar uses Italian equipment. Richard Skelly. Nov. 9. 2018.
38. RUtv video interview. Rutgers saves the hazelnut! Ashley Cornish. Nov. 8, 2018
39. Rutgers Today. Rutgers experts in the news. Thomas Molnar included in top 50 people at Rutgers cited in the media over 2017-2018. Staff writer. October 29, 2018
40. Statesman Journal. Opinion. East coast hazelnuts a breeding triumph. John Rigolizzo, Jr. Sept. 26, 2018
41. Capital Press. Industry leader sees bright future for hazelnuts. Jan Jackson. April 12, 2018.
42. North Jersey Record, also printed in the Home New Tribune. Hazelnuts could never grow in New Jersey--until now. Catherine Carrera Sept. 11 &24, 2018.
43. NJ.com - Inside New Jersey. Who let the dogwoods out? Amanda Brown. March 22, 2018.
44. CBS local Philadelphia KWY Newsradio 1060. Hazelnuts: New Jersey plant breeding program aims to benefit farmers, consumers. Moly Daly. March 18, 2018
45. BNR News Radio Netherlands. Interview on hazelnuts with Dr. Tom Molnar. March 12, 2018.
46. Eat Sip Trip Blog. NJ Professor is trying to save the world from a Nutella Shortage. Jelisa Castrodale. March 10, 2018.
47. Rutgers Magazine. Hazelnut Job. Pg. 42 Andrea Alexander. Winter 2018
48. Philadelphia Inquirer. Nutella relies on Rutgers researchers to avoid hazelnut shortage. Alexandra DeMatos. March 8, 2018.
49. Everybody Gardens Magazine. 'Scarlet Fire' kousa dogwood is culmination of 40 years of plant breeding. Doug Oster. January 25, 2018.
50. Arbor Day Newsletter. Hybrid Hazelnuts: the best of the best-toward perfection. Staff writer. Jan./Feb. 2018.

2017

51. New dogwood tough enough to wear pink. Scarlet Fire® dogwood featured in Rutgers University Office of Research and Economic Development annual Report Fiscal Year 2017.
52. Fox 5 News. Segment with reporter Arthur Chi'en and live interview with Ernie Anastos from Fox News studio in NYC Nov 22, 2017.
53. Rutgers Daily Targum. A hard nut to crack: breeding the next generation of disease-resistant hazelnuts. Claire Jarvis. November 19, 2017.
54. Jersey Digs. Chef Marcus Samuelsson's Marcus B&P Restaurant to Open in Newark on Friday. Staff writer. November 15 2017. Mention of Rutgers hazelnuts being used at new restaurant in Newark.
55. NJ.com. Rutgers researcher bringing new crop to N.J. (and joy to Nutella lovers everywhere). Kelly Heyboer. Oct. 31, 2017
56. Press of Atlantic City. Rutgers develops blight resistant hazelnut tree that can grow in New Jersey. Staff writer. November, 2017.
57. CNN Money. Nutella fans are freaking out over recipe change. Alanna Petroff. Nov. 9, 2017. T. Molnar provided quote on the issues with a tight supply of hazelnuts
58. Tap into-Nutely. Rutgers biologist developing revolutionary method to combat global Nutella shortage. Daniel Munoz. Nov. 3, 2017.
59. NJ101.5 radio. Rutgers research could save us all from a Nutella shortage. Dino Flammia. Nov. 2, 2017.
60. Rutgers Today. Nutella could soon be made with hazelnuts made at Rutgers. Andrea Alexander. Nov. 7, 2017.

61. Nursery Management. Preserving a mission. Cover story. Susan Martin. October 5, 2017.
62. Asbury Park Press. Rutgers researchers unleash "Scarlet Fire" dogwood. James M. O'Neill. June 9, 2017.
63. Fios1news.com. Making pizza in Jersey City: hazelnuts top pizza at Razza. Christine Sloan March 24, 2017.
64. Rutgers Today. Rutgers' New Pink Dogwood Adds Breakthrough Color to the Landscape. Andrea Alexander. Feb. 3, 2017.
65. NJ.com. This tree is on fire: meet Rutgers' newest plant. Kathleen O'Brien. Jan. 25, 2017.
66. Amerinursery.com. Rutgers releases new pink dogwood. American Nurseryman. Staff writer. March 22, 2017.

2016-2013

67. Newsroom—a product of the School of Biological Sciences and NJ Agricultural Experiment Station Office of Public Outreach and Communications. Rutgers 250: NJAES all-star variety of the month – hazelnut. Staff writer. October 2016.
68. NJ Spotlight News. Rutgers' plant breeders: fighting hunger and disease, bringing back Jersey tomato. Tara Nurin. Sept. 16, 2015
69. Explorations. George H. Cook Campus Magazine. Unshelling the potential of hazelnut. Staff writer. Spring 2015 Pg. 9.
70. Chemical and Engineering News. Hazelnut horror, sneaking Dylan into science. Volume 92, Issue 42, p. 48, Newscripts Issue Date: October 20, 2014.
71. NPR – All things considered. Thanks to Nutella, the world needs more hazelnuts. Dan Charles. Sept. 16, 2014.
72. Modern Farmer. The great American hazelnut hunt. Marsha Johnston. April 22, 2014
73. Growing Magazine. Edible nuts. Part of a sustainable northeast farming system. Helen Margaret Griffiths. Aug. 2013.
74. Growing Magazine. Seed research: sweet potential. Rutgers research creates opportunity for hazelnut growers. Rebekah L. Fraser. July, 2013.
75. Growing Magazine. Seed Research: Hazelnuts Revived. Rebekah L. Fraser. June, 2013.
76. Ithaca.com. Growers find success with hazelnuts. Glynis Hart. July 24, 2013.
77. Edible Jersey. A new look at an old nut. Fran McManus. Summer 2013.
78. Ontario Farmer. Hazelnut breeders tackle disease issues, cold tolerance. Glenn Powell. March 20, 2013.

2006-2010

79. FOODNEWS. Hybrid hazelnuts may guarantee supply to Italian chocolate giant. Emma Slawinski. 38(35). August 27, 2010.
80. FOODNEWS. New funding for hazelnut project could help expand growing areas. Emma Slawinski. 38(31):18. July 30, 2010.
81. The New Jersey Farmer. Hazelnuts may offer alternative crop pick. Sean Clougherty. June 1, 2010.
82. The Tillsonburg News (Ontario, Canada). Resilient hazelnut trees, owners. Jeff Tribe. April 8, 2010.
83. Simcoe Reformer (Ontario, Canada). Not-so-nutty idea. Daniel Peirce. April 1, 2010.
84. Hazelnut test plot planted at Horning Farm. The Plattsmouth Journal. Patti Jo Peterson. May 27, 2009.
85. Omaha World Herald. Research on hazelnuts might reap big rewards. Kevin Cole. May 26, 2009.
86. The Empire Nut Grower, the Newsletter of the New York Nut Growers Assoc. NY Nut Growers to Participate in Hazelnut trials. Staff writer. Summer 2009.
87. Growing Magazine (north feature article).The Search for a Commercial Hazelnut. Don Dale. November 1, 2008.
88. Newark Star Ledger (Sunday Front Page). Cracking the mystery of the hazelnut. Kitta McPherson. January 6, 2008.
89. Garden Plate magazine. Nuts to you. Rutgers research seeks to bring hazelnuts to Jersey gardens—and Jersey plates. Laura Sayre. September 2007.

90. Horticultural News. Hazelnuts in New Jersey. Volume 86(4):12. Fall 2006.