

MITCHELL TUINSTRA

**Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics
Wickersham Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Research
Scientific Director – Institute for Plant Sciences**

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EDUCATION

1996	Ph.D., Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN - Plant Breeding/Genetics
1993	M.S., Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN - Molecular Genetics
1991	B.S., Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI - Biology

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2013-present	Scientific Director, Institute for Plant Sciences, College of Agriculture, Purdue University
2007-present	Wickersham Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Research, Department of Agronomy, Purdue University
2007-present	Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Department of Agronomy, Purdue University
2006-2007	Professor, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University
2001-2005	Associate Professor, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University
1997-2001	Assistant Professor, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University
1997	Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Agronomy, Purdue University
1994	Teaching Assistant, Department of Horticulture, Purdue University
1994-1996	Research Assistant, Department of Horticulture, Purdue University
1993	Teaching Assistant, Department of Horticulture, Purdue University
1993	Teaching Assistant, Department of Agronomy, Purdue University
1991-1993	Research Assistant, Department of Horticulture, Purdue University

RESEARCH/TEACHING ACTIVITIES

60% Research: Although farmers have faced the challenges of droughts and heat waves for thousands of years, there are concerns that the frequency and severity of these adverse environmental conditions is increasing. Dr. Tuinstra and his collaborators are responding to these concerns with efforts to develop "climate resilient" cultivars of maize and sorghum that contribute to the adaptation of agriculture to warmer and drier environments. His research focuses on identifying genes and genetic resources that contribute to improved crop performance in stressful environments. This work is done in collaboration with scientists and plant breeders in the Americas, Africa and Asia.

10% Teaching: Dr. Tuinstra seeks to educate the next generation of citizens and scientists so they are aware of the importance of agriculture and are well-equipped with the abilities to increase food security and safety. His education programs help students understand that we are connected to people and practices across the globe. His teaching and mentorship activities are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills to translate discoveries and concepts in fundamental plant biology into new tools and technologies for crop improvement.

30% Administration – Scientific Director, Institute for Plant Sciences: Dr. Tuinstra serves as the Scientific Director of the Institute for Plant Sciences. His goal is to empower researchers at Purdue with the best plant science research platform in the world.

Recent investments include

- The Indiana Corn and Soybean Innovation Center (ICSC) is being developed to support field-based phenotyping research initiatives at the Agronomy Farm and includes a high-resolution imaging gantry, a core facility for UAV-based phenotyping and data processing, and an integrated solar power/agriculture production research platform.
- The Ag Alumni Seed Phenotyping Facility (AAPF) is being developed to support controlled-environment phenotyping research initiatives and includes an automated Red/Blue/Green and hyperspectral imaging platforms for shoot phenotyping and an X-Ray CT root imaging system to support non-destructive root imaging. The growth chamber capacity in the AAPF was recently doubled in size. CO₂ injection capabilities were added to provide better control of environmental conditions.
- A new four-season greenhouse is under construction to support plant science research and education initiatives across the College of Agriculture.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Seed for Success, Excellence in Research, Purdue University – 2009, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2024

Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher, Department of Agronomy – 2020, 2023

Lowell S. Hardin Award for Excellence in International Agriculture, College of Agriculture – 2023

Crops & Soils Merit Award In Recognition of Outstanding Contribution to Agriculture and the Seed Industry, Indiana Crop Improvement Association – 2022

David C. Pfendler Outstanding Undergraduate Counselor Award, College of Agriculture – 2022

Agronomy Outstanding Counselor – 2017, 2018, 2021, 2022

Wickersham Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Research, Purdue University – 2007, 2015, 2021

Fellow, American Society of Agronomy – 2017

Fellow, Crop Science Society of America – 2017

Spotlight Educator – Agricultural Council Student Choice Award, College of Agriculture, Purdue University – 2016

Gamma Sigma Delta – Early Career Award – 2001
Student Travel Award, International Society of Plant Molecular Biology – 1996
Excellence in Biological Research Graduate Scholarship, Dow Elanco – 1995
Fellow, *Gamma Sigma Delta* – The Honor Society of Agriculture – 1994
McKnight Doctoral Fellowship, McKnight Foundation – 1994

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Society of Agronomy
Crop Science Society of America
Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America
National Association of Plant Breeders

PATENTS

Agrawal, R., Alam, M. and Tuinstra, M., 2022. Photovoltaic structures for use in agriculture farms. U.S. Patent 12,041,897. Issue Date: July 23, 2024.
Tuinstra, M.R. and Al-Khatib, K., 2019. Acetolactate synthase herbicide resistant sorghum. U.S. Patent 10,519,461. Issue Date: December 31, 2019.
Tuinstra MR, Al-Khatib K. K. Acetyl-CoA Carboxylase Herbicide Resistant Sorghum. U.S. Patent No. 9,617,530. Issue Date: April 11, 2017.
Tuinstra MR, Krothapalli K, Dilkes B, Buescher E. Genetic Mutations that Disrupt Dhurrin Production In Sorghum. U.S. Patent No. 9,512,437. Issue Date: December 6, 2016.

PUBLICATIONS

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Gupta, V., Gruss, S.M., Cammarano, D., Brouder, S.M., Bermel, P.A., Tuinstra, M.R., Gitau, M.W. and Agrawal, R., 2024. Optimizing corn agrivoltaic farming through farm-scale experimentation and modeling. *Cell Reports Sustainability*, 1(7).
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crsus.2024.100148>

Aviles Toledo, C.E., Crawford, M., and Tuinstra, M.R., 2024. Integrating Multi-Modal Remote Sensing, Deep Learning, and Attention Mechanisms for Yield Prediction in Plant Breeding Experiments. *Frontiers in Plant Science*, 15, p.1408047.
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2024.1408047>

Jung, J., Fei, S., Tuinstra, M.R., Yang, Y., Wang, D., Song, C., Gillan, J., Bhandari, M., Ibrahim, A., Zhao, L. and Swetnam, T., 2024, June. Data to science: an open-source online platform for managing, visualizing, and publishing UAS data. In *Autonomous Air and Ground Sensing Systems for Agricultural Optimization and Phenotyping IX* (Vol. 13053, pp. 12-15). SPIE. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.3021199>

Diatta-Holgate, E., Bergsma, B. and Tuinstra, M.R., 2024. Mutations in the dwarf3 gene confer height stability in sorghum. *The Plant Genome*, p.e20466.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/tpg2.20466>

Arora, A., Das, A.K., Dixit, S., KR, Y., Singh, S.B., Sekhar, J.C., Ravikesavan, R., Sahi, J.P., Kumar, I.S., Mahadevu, P., Swain, D., Kachapur, R.M., Tuinstra, M.R., Venadan, S., Rakshit, S., 2024. Genetic diversity analysis and heterotic grouping of Indian white maize

- inbred lines using combining ability and SNP markers. *Crop Science*.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/csc2.21201>
- Gruss, S.M., Johnson, K.D., Radcliffe, J.S., Lemenager, R.P. and Tuinstra, M.R., 2024. Preference of dhurrin-free sorghum by ewes. *Crop, Forage & Turfgrass Management*, 10(1), p.e20259. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cft2.20259>
- Grubbs, E.K., Gruss, S.M., Schull, V.Z., Gosney, M.J., Mickelbart, M.V., Brouder, S., Gitau, M.W., Bermel, P., Tuinstra, M.R., Agrawal, R., 2024. Optimized agrivoltaic tracking for nearly-full commodity crop and energy production. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 191, p.114018. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2023.114018>
- Tolley, S.A., Brito, L.F., Wang, D.R., Tuinstra, M.R., 2023. Genomic Prediction and Association Mapping of Maize Grain Yield in Multi-environment Trials Based on Reaction Norm Models. *Frontiers in Genetics*, 14, p.1221751. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fgene.2023.1221751>
- Maki, H., Lynch, V., Ma, D., Tuinstra, M.R., Yamasaki, M., and Jin, J., 2023. Comparison of Various Nitrogen and Water Dual Stress Effects for Predicting Relative Water Content and Nitrogen Content in Maize Plants through Hyperspectral Imaging. *AI*, 4(3), pp.692-705. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ai4030036>
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- Tolley, S., Carpenter, N., Crawford, M., Delp, E.J., Habib, A.F. and Tuinstra, M.R., 2023. Row selection in remote sensing from four-row plots of maize and sorghum based on repeatability and predictive modelling. *Frontiers in Plant Science*, 14, p.1202536. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2023.1202536>
- Lima, D.C., Aviles, A.C., Alpers, R.T., Perkins, A., Schoemaker, D.L., Costa, M., Kaeppler, S., Ertl, D., Romay, M.C., Gage, J.L., Holland, J., Beissinger, T. Bohn, M., Buckler, E., Edwards, J., Flint-Garcia, S., Gore, M.A., Hirsch, C.N., Knoll, J.F., McKay, M., Minyo, R., Murray, S.C., Schnable, J.C., Sekhon, R.S., Singh, M.P., Sparks, E.E., Thomison, P., Thompson, A., Tuinstra, M.R., Wallace, J., Washburn, J.D., Weldekidan, T., Xu, W., de Leon., N. 2023. 2020-2021 Field Seasons of Maize G x E Project within Maize Genomes to Fields Initiative. <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2908766/v1>
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<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12863-023-01129-2>
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- Gruss, S.M., Souza, A., Yang, Y., Dahlberg, J. and Tuinstra, M.R., 2023. Expression of stay-green drought tolerance in dhurrin-free sorghum. *Crop Science*, 2023, 1–14.
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- Diatta-Holgate, E., Anderson, J.S., Hatch, R., Tuinstra, M.R. and Weil, C., 2023. Rapid determination of protein digestibility in Sorghum before and after cooking. *MethodsX*, p.102162. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mex.2023.102162>
- Gruss, S.M., Johnson, K.D., Ghaste, M., Widhalm, J.R., Johnson, S.K., Holman, J.D., Obour, A., Aiken, R.M. and Tuinstra, M.R., 2023. Dhurrin stability and hydrogen cyanide release in dried sorghum samples. *Field Crops Research*, 291, p.108764.
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- Ma, D., Rehman, T.U., Zhang, L., Maki, H., Tuinstra, M.R. and Jin, J., 2021. Modeling of Environmental Impacts on Aerial Hyperspectral Images for Corn Plant Phenotyping. *Remote Sensing*, 13, p.2520. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rs13132520>
- Tolley, S.A., Singh, A. and Tuinstra, M., 2021. Heterotic Patterns of Temperate and Tropical Maize by Ear Photometry. *Frontiers in Plant Science*, 12, p.1117. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2021.616975>
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- Herrero-Huerta, M., Meline, V., Iyer-Pascuzzi, A.S., Souza, A.M., Tuinstra, M.R. and Yang, Y., 2021. Root Phenotyping from X-Ray Computed Tomography: Skeleton Extraction. *The International Archives of Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences*, 43, pp.417-422. <https://doi.org/10.5194/isprs-archives-XLIII-B4-2021-417-2021>
- Herrero-Huerta, M., Tolley, S., Tuinstra, M.R. and Yang, Y., 2021, April. Individual maize extraction from UAS imagery-based point clouds by 3D deep learning. In *Autonomous Air and Ground Sensing Systems for Agricultural Optimization and Phenotyping VI* (Vol. 11747, p. 1174704). International Society for Optics and Photonics. <https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2587100>
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- Zhang, X., Xie, J., Chen, T., Ma, D., Yao, T., Gu, F., Lim, J., Tuinstra, M.R., Hamaker, B.R., 2021. High arabinoxylan fine structure specificity to gut bacteria driven by corn genotypes but not environment. *Carbohydrate Polymers*, 257: 117667. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.carbpol.2021.117667>

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- Interaction in Maize Inbreds. *Crop Science* 60: 62-81.
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MENTORING

VISITING SCHOLARS

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POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

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8. Dr. Neal Carpenter, 2018-2019. Current Employment: Head of Field Data Science, Bayer Crop Science, Chesterfield, MO.
9. Dr. Shelby Gruss, 2021-2022. Current Employment: Assistant Professor, Department of Agronomy, Iowa State University.

STUDENT ADVISING

Graduate students served as major or co-major professor:

1. Jianming Yu. (M.S.) Graduated – 2000. Current Employment: Pioneer Distinguished Chair in Maize Breeding, Professor, Department of Agronomy, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1010.
2. Jacob Reed (M.S.) Graduated – 2001. Current Employment: Station Manager - Trait Development and Breeding at BASF, Wolfforth, Texas.
3. Tesfaye Tesso (Ph.D.) Graduated – 2002. Current Employment: Sorghum Breeder, Professor, Department of Agronomy, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.
4. Travis Kriegshauser (M.S.) – 2003. Current Employment: Head of Global Seeds Strategy & Planning, Raleigh, North Carolina.
5. Michael Stamm (M.S.) – 2003. Current Employment: Canola Breeder, Associate Agronomist, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS.
6. Anand Pandravada (Ph.D.) Graduated – 2004. Current Employment: Regional Research Director, Corteva Agriscience, Hyderabad, India.
7. Dustan Ridder (M.S.) Graduated – 2005. Current Employment: Assistant Agronomist, North Farm, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS.
8. Rhett Kaufman (M.S.) Graduated – 2005. Current Employment: Technical Consultant, RCK Cereal Consulting, Manhattan, KS.
9. Souley Soumana (M.S.) Graduated – 2007. Current Employment: Sorghum Breeder, Institut National de Recherche Agronomique du Niger (INRAN), Niamey, NIGER.
10. Grant Groene (M.S.) Graduated – 2008. Current Employment: Global Agronomy Lead, Corteva Agriscience, Des Moines, IA.
11. Ivan Dario Barrero Farfan (M.S.) Graduated – 2010. Current Employment: Research Scientist, Hormel Foods, Sacramento, CA.
12. Kellan Kershner (Ph.D.) Graduated – 2010. Current Employment: Corn Breeder, Wyffels Hybrids, Geneseo, IL.
13. Mike Popelka (Ph.D.) Graduated – 2012. Current Employment: Hybrid Product Breeders Manager, AgReliant Genetics, LLC, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

14. Jason Morales (Ph.D.) Graduated – 2013. Current Employment: Corn Breeder, Corteva Agrisciences, Dallas Center, IA.
15. Ani Elias (Ph.D.) Graduated – 2013. Current Employment: Department of Botany, University of Delhi, New Delhi, INDIA.
16. Jenae Skelton (M.S.) Graduated – 2014. Current Employment: Clerk, Treasurer's Office, Jewell County, KS.
17. Alex Renaud (Ph.D.) Graduated – 2015. Current Employment: US Corn Germplasm and Deployment Lead, Bayer Crop Science, Chesterfield, MO.
18. Raymond Lindsey (Ph.D.) Graduated – 2015. Current Employment: Production Research Scientist, Bayer Crop Science, Constantine, MI.
19. Molly McKneight (M.S.) Graduated – 2015. Continuous Improvement Project Leader, Corteva Agriscience, Indianapolis, IN.
20. Moriah Massafaro (M.Sc.) Graduated – 2015. Current Employment: Molecular Biologist, Eli Lilly, Indianapolis, IN.
21. Brad Thada (Ph.D.) Graduated – 2017. Current Employment: Popcorn Breeder, Weaver Popcorn, New Richmond, IN.
22. Valerie Lynch (Cross) (M.Sc.) Graduated – 2018. Current Employment: Associate Breeder, PanAmerican Seed Company, Aurora, IL.
23. Ryan Gibson (Ph.D.) Graduated – 2018. Current Employment: Maize Breeding and Genetics, Corteva Agriscience, Johnston, IA.
24. Stefanie Griebel (Ph.D.) Graduated – 2019. Current Employment: Research Coordinator, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, Bonn, Germany.
25. Elisabeth Diatta, (Ph.D.) – Sandwich program with West Africa Center for Crop Improvement, Accra, Ghana. Graduated – 2019. Current Employment: Sorghum Breeder, Centre d'Études Régional pour L'Amélioration de l'Adaptation à la Sécheresse (CERAAS), Theis, SENEGAL.
26. Ousmane Seyni, (Ph.D.) – Sandwich program with West Africa Center for Crop Improvement, Accra, Ghana. Graduated – 2019. Current Employment: Sorghum Breeder, Institut National de Recherche Agronomique du Niger (INRAN), Niamey, NIGER.
27. Shelby Gruss (Ph.D.) Graduated – 2021. Current Employment: Assistant Professor, Department of Agronomy, Iowa State University.
28. Kai Wei Yang (Ph.D.) Graduated – 2021. Current Employment: Data Scientist, Testing by Design, Bayer Crop Science, Chesterfield, MO.
29. Meng-Yang Lin (Ph.D.) Graduated – 2022. Current Employment: Discovery Breeder - Phenotyping Lead, PepsiCo, Rhinelander, Wisconsin.
30. Seth Tolley (Ph.D.) Graduated – 2023. Current Employment: Technical Representative, Bayer Crop Science, Decatur, IL.
31. Mark Gee (Ph.D.) Arrived – 2022; Current Employment: Database Engineer - Lead, Purdue University.

Current graduate student advisees as major or co-major professor:

1. Aaron Widener (Ph.D.) Arrived – 2024; Estimated Completion – 2028.
2. Nicolas Roberts (Ph.D.) Arrived – 2024; Estimated Completion – 2028.

3. Christopher Barron (Ph.D.) Arrived – 2024; Estimated Completion – 2028.

Undergraduate student advisees: Plant Genetics, Breeding, and Biotechnology Major.

Year	# Students
2023-24	4
2022-23	4
2021-22	4
2020-21	4
2019-20	4
2018-19	6
2017-18	17
2016-17	20
2015-16	30
2014-15	26
2013-14	31
2012-13	29
2011-12	16
2010-11	9
2009-10	7
2008-09	6
2007-08	2