

## ANDRES MAYORGA

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### Career Profile

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Agronomist / Horticulturist with experience in plant research including molecular biology techniques and plant production on vegetable crops on different growing systems.

### Work Experience

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**Grower Assistant Intern**, Davis Floral Co, Dewy Rose, GA. Mayo- 2019- present

- Responsible for irrigation, fertilization, application of fungicides and plant growth regulators in nursery stage

**Research Assistant**, UGA, Dept. of Horticulture, Jan 2017-present

- Gained experience in vegetable physiology and production with an emphasis on development of physiological disorders in bell pepper
- Evaluated 17 bell pepper varieties in field and greenhouse for total yield, marketable fruit, susceptibility to blossom end-rot and postharvest water loss
- Studied effect of various substrates and plant growth regulators on fruit size and incidence of BER in greenhouse
- Performed RNA extraction and RT-PCR to determine the interaction between fruit growth rate, cell expansion, *Expansin* genes expression and fruit calcium accumulation
- Performed statistical analysis of data using excel and R Statistical Computing
- Prepared reports, presentation and graphics for growers and scientific conferences

**Teaching Assistant**, Organic Gardening (online), Dept. of Horticulture, Spring 2017

- Answered student queries and graded exams and projects

**Account Manager**, Grower owned Company, Simijaca, Colombia, July 2015-Dec 2016

- Managed up to 20-25 field workers during potato production and harvest
- Supervised potato production from sowing to commercialization for the industry
- Established budgets for potato production using Excel and graphics
- Revised and calculated fertilization and insecticide rates for carrot, potato and onion crops

**Teaching Assistant**, National University of Colombia, Basics of Plant Physiology, Dept. of Agricultural Sciences, Bogotá, Colombia, Feb-June 2015

- Monitored and assisted 40 students with class projects
- Supervised 10 fertilization regimes in hydroponic systems and Scouted for nutritional deficiencies and imbalances

**Research Assistant**, Purdue University, Dept. of Horticulture, West Lafayette, IN, June-Dec 2014

- Research focus on apple buds as an early estimator of flower and fruit production (with Dr. Peter Hirst)
- Evaluated apple root stocks, sample collection and help with other experiments
- Collaborated with Engineering students on how to phenotype apple trees for their project

**Research Assistant**, National University of Colombia, Entomology, Dept. of Agricultural Sciences, Bogotá, Colombia, Jan-June 2012

- Supervised about 20 students on insect identification
- Identified, implemented capture and preservation techniques on agriculturally important insects to implement integrated pest management (IPM)

## Other Research Projects

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- UGA. Advanced Plant Physiology. 2018. Looking at the effect of two different lighting levels on growth, development and flowering related genes on wheat plants.
- UGA. Environmental Plant Physiology. 2017. Determining the effect of 4 different shading levels on growth and development of 2 tomato varieties.
- UNAL. Fertility Management. 2013. Determining the effect of different sodium sources on growth and development of lettuce (Hydroponic medium).
- UNAL. Plant Physiology. 2012. Determining the effect of waterlogging stress during 4 different developmental stages on growth and development of radish (Hydroponic nutrition on peat moss).

## Education

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**M.S.** Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 2019

**B.S.** Agronomy, National University of Colombia (UNAL), Bogotá, Colombia, 2015

## Presentations

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### Scientific Presentations

- Mayorga-Gómez, A., Díaz-Pérez, J., Coolong, T. and S. Nambeesan. "Fruit growth rate and calcium accumulation: factors affecting blossom-end rot development in Bell Pepper". South East Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference. Savannah, GA, 2019.
- Mayorga-Gómez, A., Díaz-Pérez, J., Coolong, T. and S. Nambeesan. "*EXPANSINS* and its role in cell elongation during blossom-end rot development in bell pepper". American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) annual meeting, Washington D.C., 2018.
- Mayorga-Gómez, A., Díaz-Pérez, J., Coolong, T. and S. Nambeesan. "Incidence of blossom-end rot (BER) and calcium accumulation during fruit development in bell pepper varieties". ASHS South Region, Jacksonville, FL, 2018.
- Mayorga, A. and P. Hirst. "Floral Commitment and morphogenesis in ten apple cultivars" Department of Horticulture, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, 2014.

### Grower Meetings

- Coolong, T. and A. Mayorga-Gómez. Vegetable Production Updates. Approx. attendance 80 growers. – Colquitt County, GA Jan. 9, 2018.

## Service

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**International Student Advisory Board**, UGA, Aug 2018- present

- Offer suggestions and serve as a bridge between the international student body and the administration from different areas of the University of Georgia.

## Skills

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**Computer:** MS Office, SAS Statistical Analysis System, R Statistical analysis software, @Risk (Risk Analysis using MonteCarlo simulation), Autocad.

**Equipment:** Spad chlorophyll meter, portable soil pH meter, fruit and soil penetrometer, refractometer, portable photosynthesis system, spectrophotometer, thermocycler, RT-PCR equipment, centrifuge.

**Languages:** Spanish- Native, English- Professional Proficiency (TOEFL -100/120).