

»» NEWSLETTER ««

# PLANT SCIENCE



WINNIPEG - MAY, 2024  
PHOTO CREDIT - DOUG CATTANI  
PHOTO: CHRISTMAS?? IN MAY, I PREFER THE FIRST ONE

## TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

### WELCOME NEW PEOPLE

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We are happy to welcome to our team new technicians, graduate students and newly admitted students.

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- Plant Science Seminars
- Student Defenses
- Reporting Dates

### PLANTS SCIENCE NEWS

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# WELCOME NEW PEOPLE

JUNE 2024

## »»» WHO IS NEW?



Shirmith Nirmal is a master's student at Department of Plant Science joined in May 2024. He is originally from Sri Lanka. He graduated with a BSc in Agriculture from University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. During his bachelor's he realized he has a great passion towards using remote sensing in the field of Agriculture, which was the reason he joined the Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba. Weed Ecology lab under Dr. Dilshan Benaragama. His project is 'Application of remote sensing technologies to determine crop weed competition dynamics in wheat crop'. Which he think is a great avenue to apply his knowledge and skills while learning and gaining experiences from the most advanced technology currently available.



Pantha Azad recently joined the Department of Plant Science as an MSc student. Under the supervision of Dr. Dilshan Benaragama, Pantha's research focuses on the development of remote sensing tools to evaluate the in-field results of adopting Best Management Practices (BMPs) for soybean and pulse crops. His work aims to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability through innovative remote sensing technology. Pantha completed his Bachelor's in Agriculture from Bangladesh Agricultural University and brings a wealth of experience in agricultural research and practices. Outside of academia, Pantha enjoys traveling, playing chess, and photography.



**Rodrigo Miranda has joined the Perennial Grains group as a PhD. student in May of 2024.**

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# Plant Science Summer BBQ

**FREE**

**burgers, snacks, drinks,  
and vegetarian options**

***Friday,  
June 21st***

🕒 12:00 - 3:00 PM

📍 The Point

***Join us for:*** SAFETY SEMINAR AG

- Meeting/greeting new department members
- Lawn games
- Casual football and soccer



**U OF M**

Department of  
Plant Science



## »»» VISTING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

PHOTO CREDIT - DILSHAN BENARAGAMA

Two indigenous high school students, Sheldon Kirkness and Alison Spence, selected Dr. Dilshan Benaragama's program for their university visit as part of the Verna J. Kirkness Foundation funded scholarship program for 2024. Among 33 other scholarship recipients, they visited the University of Manitoba for a four-day immersive experience. During their time in Dr. Benaragama's lab, they gained valuable insights into agronomy research, weed science, and remote sensing technologies. Additionally, they had the opportunity to visit the labs of Dr. Dilantha Fernando and Dr. Rob Duncan, where they received some experience in plant breeding and plant pathology research.



PHOTO CREDIT - DILSHAN BENARAGAMA







## SAFETY GROUP TIP



### Three Stages of Heat Stress and How to Treat Them

During a heat wave, workers who stay outdoors for long periods of time during the day run the risk of succumbing to heat-related illnesses. Recognizing the signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses is important in ensuring your workers' safety. St. John Ambulance offers the following guidelines for administering first aid for people suffering from heat stress.

#### Heat cramps

Painful muscle cramps primarily in the legs and abdomen and excessive sweating. This is usually caused by losing too much water and salt through sweating; usually, this is related to excessive physical activity in hot weather. They are not serious and can be reversed with some basic first aid.

##### First aid

Ensure the person is put at rest in a cool place and given as much water as possible in small amounts, so as not to cause nausea. If the cramps do not subside, seek medical help.

#### Heat exhaustion

More serious than heat cramps, the symptoms include: excessive sweating, dilated pupils, complaints of dizziness, blurred vision, headaches and cramps. The casualty may also have cool, clammy skin, a weak rapid pulse, rapid shallow breathing or vomiting and may go unconscious.

##### First aid

Give the casualty water to drink, as much as they will take. If they vomit, do not give them anything by mouth and seek medical attention right away. Place them at rest in the shock position in a cool place, remove any excessive clothing and loosen clothing around the neck and waist. If they go unconscious, put them in the recovery position and get medical help; continue monitoring their condition.

#### Heatstroke (sunstroke)

This is a life-threatening condition. Without immediate action, heatstroke can result in permanent brain damage or death. If heatstroke is suspected, seek medical attention immediately or call 9-1-1. Symptoms include a rapid and full pulse that gets weaker and harder to feel in later stages, noisy breathing, flushed skin, hot and dry skin or hot and sweaty skin (when heatstroke is related to exertion), restlessness, headache, fatigue, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, convulsions and, eventually, unconsciousness.

##### First aid

Call for medical assistance. It is critical that the body temperature is lowered as quickly as possible; cover them with a wet sheet and fan them, immerse them in cool (not cold) water (watch them closely for any changes) or sponge them with cool water, particularly in the armpits, neck and groin.

