

Dr. Susanna Keriö – Urban tree stress scientist at CAES

Dr. Susanna Keriö joined The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station on April 13. She has expertise in disease resistance of trees to fungal pathogens, and the molecular and genetic factors associated with tree-fungus interaction. Her current research in CAES aims at applying this knowledge to develop innovative management strategies to reduce tree stress and to support tree health in urban environments. Her doctorate research at the University of Helsinki focused on the transcriptional and chemical defense responses of Norway spruce and Scots pine to the *Heterobasidion* root rot pathogens. In her postdoctorate at the Oregon State University, Dr. Keriö's research aimed at identifying genetic variation in *Populus trichocarpa* associated with resistance to the Septoria leaf spot and stem canker pathogen *Sphaerulina musiva*. In Oregon, she got to witness firsthand the destruction caused by forest fires, sudden oak death, and Swiss needle cast. This reinforced her commitment to work towards improving tree resilience through applied research. Dr. Keriö looks forward to collaborating with forestry professionals and tree enthusiasts to address the future challenges of urban tree health in Connecticut.



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