

Maria Hellström - Curriculum Vitae

Date of birth: 1994-08-12 | **Nationality:** Swedish & Cypriot

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Work experience

2020-05 – PhD student

present *Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Alnarp, Sweden)*

Is currently pursuing a Licencate degree at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. The thesis project is on integrated control of fungal pathogens in new light in combination with biocontrol agents (BCA's) and LED-lamps. Within the project three different BCA's are being tested against grey mold and powdery mildew in greenhouse grown tomatoes under an array of light spectra. This is part of a SLF funded project.

2019-08 – Research Assistant

2020-04 *Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Alnarp, Sweden)*

Has worked on a project with Professor Beatrix Alsanus where a screening was conducted on behalf of the INGKA Group, the largest retailer within IKEA. Has also worked on a project where light assisted integrated control of foliar diseases was tested on greenhouse crops, funded by SLF at SLU. Has since January been part of the teaching team for the master course BI1310 Microbial Horticulture, 15 credits.

Some of the tasks were:

- Contacting suppliers worldwide both via email and phone
- Compiling and analysing data
- Working closely with a team from both SLU and INGKA
- Supported the team during the phenotypic micro-arraying
- Preparing and leading student laboratories during the course

2018-05 – Temporary Service Technician

2018-08 *Horticulture Section at the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Cornell (Ithaca, New York)*

Worked in a group comprising of three students and a research support specialist at Cornell University on the Annual and Perennial Flower Trials at Bluegrass Lane, in Ithaca, New York. This was part of the Floriculture Program at Cornell University which every year conducts garden performance trials of commercial annual plants. They were evaluated every two weeks throughout the summer months and were featured at the annual Floriculture Field Day, at which industry professionals and educators toured the gardens. Approximately 150 cultivars were trialled that year. For more information on the trials please see here: <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/bglannuals/2018/index.html>

Some of the tasks were:

- Growing the annuals in the greenhouse prior to transplantation
- Fertilizing, mulching & watering when needed

- Using equipment in the upkeep of the grounds *e.g.* lawnmowers & the TORO workman
- Evaluating foliage appearance, flower display, uniformity and landscape value of the annual

The position placed high demands on:

- Teamwork & communication
- Taking own initiative

2011–06 – Seasonal Team Member
2017-06 Sahin Nurseries Ltd. (Skarinou, Cyprus)

Has worked in the family greenhouse operation after school and during the summers. It is a year-round production facility that focuses mainly on the production of ornamental potted plants for the Cyprus market.

Some of the tasks have been:

- Potting, planting, irrigation, follow-up of plug plants & weeding
- Aiding during wage distribution
- Aiding in the packing of the orders

The position placed high demands on:

- Order and structure
- The ability to work well with a team
- Time management

Education

2014-09 – Degree of Master of Science in Horticulture (Hortonomprogrammet)
2019-10 Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU, Alnarp

Has earned both a B.Sc. and a M.Sc. in Horticulture Science, earning a total of 300 EC. Some courses taken are:

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| • Botany for Horticulture Students | • Basic Course in Business Management |
| • Genetics and Plant Breeding | • Microbiology |
| • Plant Biochemistry | • Ecology and Statistics |
| • Plant Protection | • Applied Plant Biotechnology |
| • Plant Physiology | |
| • Bachelor's thesis in Horticultural Science; EX0495, " <i>The use of cryoprotectants in unrooted cuttings of Pelargonium zonale, in order to increase their life expectancy.</i> " | |
| • Independent project in Horticultural Science, A2E, EX0857, " <i>Elimination of harmful microorganisms on unrooted Pelargonium cuttings with the use of organic acids, vacuum impregnation and pulsed electric fields.</i> " | |

Both thesis projects comprised of extensive laboratory and greenhouse work at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Alnarp and at OptiFreeze AB in Lund.

2017-08 – Exchange studies for one academic year

2018-05 *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*

Earned 60 out of 120 EC needed for a M.Sc., during the exchange. The exchange was through a scholarship that was offered by Cornell University, that is given to one student each academic year from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. Some courses taken during the exchange were:

- PLHRT 6940 - Special Topics in Horticulture (Scientific Writing in Horticulture)
- EDUC 5350 - Youth Organizations and Leadership Development
- PLHRT 4850 - Public Garden Management
- FDSC 4600 - Wine and Food Fermentations
- PLSCS 4100 - Plant Responses to Environmental Stresses and Global Climate Change
- PLBRG 4050 - Invention and Technology Commercialization: IP Management for Scientists, Engineers, & Entrepreneurs
- PLBRG 4030 - Genetic Improvement of Crop Plants
- PLHRT 4000 - Principles of Plant Propagation
- PLHRT 3025 - Hydroponic Food Crop Production and Management

2013-09 – Qualifying Swedish language course

2014-01 *Lund University (Lund, Sweden)*

2000-09 – American Academy Larnaca

2013-06 *Larnaca, Cyprus*

Junior school – High school

Is an international private school based in Cyprus, where it follows the British school system. A-levels taken were in: Chemistry, English Literature, Law and Pure Mathematics.

Teaching Experience

2017-09 – 2017 NYS FFA COLT Conference

2017-09 *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*

Led an afternoon workshop for youths from the Future Farmers of America on how to propagate ornamentals and the importance of propagation.

2020-01 – BI1310 Microbial Horticulture, 15 credits

2020-03 *Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU, Alnarp*

Has been responsible for the preparation and teaching of several laboratories during the Microbial Horticulture master course such as Ex. 1.1A basic plate pouring, Ex.1B & C dilution & viable count, Ex. 1F growth curve and Ex. 7 starch degradation. Has assisted in the pure culture and the cryo culture labs.

Awards and scholarships

- 2019-05 – Thesis Day Poster Winner, 1st place**
2019-05 *Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU, Alnarp*
- 2018-01 – Cornell CALS Deans’s List**
2018-05 *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*
- 2017-08 – Recipient of the Cornell Scholarship**
2018-05 *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*
- 2017-08 – Recipient of the Bertha Fleming Hess Fund Scholarship**
2018-05 *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*
- 2017-08 – Recipient of the Robert W. Purcell Scholarship**
2018-05 *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*

Extra curriculum

- 2019-03 – Board member in Sveriges Hortonomförbund**
- 2016-07 – Chairperson in the Traditions committee (TradU)**
2017-06 *Alnarps Student Union (SLU, Alnarp)*
- 2016-01 – Programme representative in the Horticulture Student Council**
2016-12 *Alnarps Student Union (SLU, Alnarp)*
- 2015-01 – Secretary in the Student Union Board**
2015-12 *Alnarps Student Union (SLU, Alnarp)*
- 2011-01 – Member of the EYP-delegation team from the American Academy**
2011-09 *European Youth Parliament (EYP), Cyprus*
- 2011-09 – Duke of Edinburgh’s award: Bronze, Silver & Gold Level**
2013-06 *American Academy, Larnaca, Cyprus*

Languages & other skills

- Swedish** Native and bilingual proficiency
English Native and bilingual proficiency
Greek Native and bilingual proficiency
Driver’s license Swedish class B