



# Ohio State HCS News

HORTICULTURE & CROP SCIENCE IN VIRTUAL PERSPECTIVE - THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Bill Randle Accepts H&CS Department Chair Position



Vegetable breeder Dr. Bill Randle will serve as the new Chair of The Ohio State University Horticulture & Crop Science Department.

College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Dean **Bob Moser** has announced that **Dr. Bill Randle** is coming to The Ohio State University to give leadership to the Horticulture & Crop Science Department. "It is my pleasure to announce that Dr. Bill Randle has accepted our offer to serve as the Chairperson of the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, effective November 1, 2006 through June 30, 2010, subject to the Board of Trustees' approval," said Moser.

"An accomplished researcher and educator, Dr. Randle joins us from the Department of Horticulture at the University of Georgia. He brings a wealth of valuable experience, insight, and enthusiasm to this position that will serve us well in leading the HCS department's quality teaching, research, and outreach initiatives into the future." Dean Moser asks everyone to welcome Bill and his family to CFAES and OSU and also expressed thanks to **Mark Bennett**, **Clay Sneller**, and **Kent Harrison** for their willingness to serve as H&CS Interim Chair and Co-Chairs, respectively.

Dr. Randle is excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead as chair of H&CS. "Ohio State has always been on my radar because of its excellent reputation for high quality education, extension and research. As I went through the process of becoming the next Chair, I found balanced research within the department, viable educational programs, a dedicated staff, and a diversified state industry which the department supports....and good people! All of these aspects were very attractive to me. However, 21st century demands continue to put pressure on colleges of agriculture, and I am looking forward to participating in the challenges and opportunities the department faces as we adapt to become even better," said Randle.



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Formally trained in plant breeding and genetics, Professor Randle has worked with most of the 28 major vegetables produced in the United States. He has experience and expertise in plant biochemistry and plant secondary metabolic activity, especially as it relates to flavor and therapeutic compound accumulation. Since 1989 when he first arrived at the University of Georgia (UGA), Dr. Randle has worked with the Vidalia onion industry, seeking solutions to help grower produce the sweet and mild Vidalia onion. His work has developed an international following and he has been

asked to speak in such distant places as Argentina, New Zealand, Australia, China, Hungary, Peru, and the UK. Dr. Randle finds it rewarding when information developed through his research gets put into practice at the grower level.

Teaching has been a main focus of Dr. Randle's career. To teach at the college level was a main reason Dr. Randle pursued graduate education in horticulture. At UGA, he taught undergraduate courses including Horticultural Physiology, Introduction to Vegetable Crops, Olericulture, and co-taught Plant Propagation. Randle enjoys the responsibility of training the next generation of scientists and feels fortunate to have educated many excellent graduate students. "It is most satisfying to open the world of science to a young person, see them grow and develop, and then excel. Now I am at a stage in my career where I am ready to take on administrative responsibilities and contribute to agriculture and academia in a leadership role."

Early in his career Randle was a sweet potato and tomato breeder at Louisiana State University. He is the breeder of record for the 'Beauregard' potato, which continues to be the most popular sweet potato cultivar grown and consumed in the United States. Randle also brings industry experience to his record through plant breeder experience as the Director of Variety Development for Basic American Foods in California.

Dr. Randle earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona, master's at Michigan State University and doctorate from the University of Minnesota.

Story and web publishing by [Victor van Buchem](#). Photos courtesy Bill Randle.

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