Celebrating BITS Student Mentors

Valérie Gravel

Professor Valérie Gravel is an Assistant Professor in the Plant Science Department at McGill University. Professor Gravel grew up in Quebec City and completed her Bachelors, Masters and PhD studies at University Laval with many publications under her belt. She is a trained plant pathologist, more specifically on pathogens affecting root vegetable crops. She also completed postdoctoral training on organic cropping systems with field researchers in the Netherlands.

Professor Gravel teaches two courses at McGill. Her research focus is on sustainable production systems, particularly those affecting fruit quality. Her interest lies in sustainable production horticulture, which involves cultivation practices that are environmentally sound, with the goal of ensuring long-term food security and high quality produce.

This is Prof. Gravel’s first summer with the BITS program. She will be teaching Tropical Horticultural Ecology (AEBI-421) along with Prof. Danielle Donnelly (McGill) and Profs. Francis Lopez and Jeff Chandler (The University of the West Indies). This course offers students a closer look at horticulture practices in tropical environments, and with Professor Gravel’s expertise, students are sure to enjoy their learning!

Pictured above are BITS 2014 students on field trips during the Tropical Horticultural Ecology Course