

Status of Plant Breeding Investment: University of Tennessee

Part I. Plant Breeding Efforts by Crop

Crop Group	PY	Releases in past 5 years (2002 – 2006)	
		Germplasm	Cultivars
Soybean	1.0	5	6
Corn	0.4	1	3
Wheat	1.3	0	0
Tobacco	1.0	2	8
Forrest Trees	1.0	0	0
Ornamentals	1.0	0	4
Total	5.7	8	21

Part IV. Job Placements of Recent Graduates

Recent graduates are gainfully employed in academia at Land Grant and small colleges, USDA-ARS, NCRS, and industry.

Part II. Plant Breeding Efforts by Activity

Activity	PYs	%
a) Plant Breeding Research	1.07	17.5
b) Germplasm Enhancement	1.65	27.0
c) Cultivar Development	2.03	33.3
d) Biotechnology R&D	0.90	14.8
e) Plant Breeding Education	0.45	7.4
Total	6.1	100

Part V. Plant Breeding Courses

Course Number	Course Name
451	Plant Tissue Culture
454	Plant Biotechniques
551	Organismal Plant Genetics
605	Special Topics in Plant Breeding and Genetics
653	Advanced Plant Breeding

Part III. Recent Graduates and Current Graduate Student Enrollment

7 M.S. and 2 Ph.D. recent graduates and 3 M.S. and 4 Ph.D. current graduate students.

Part VI. Institutional Philosophy, Strengths, Weaknesses, Future Plans, and Other Comments

Strong institutional support in recent years includes building new \$20 million Plant Biotechnology Building, \$1 million irrigation system investment and \$1 million upgrades for seed storage, seed laboratory, and office space.

Plant breeders have earned awards in recent years including:

- Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station Research Impact Award
- B. Otto and Kathleen Wheeley Excellence in Technology Transfer Award
- University of Tennessee / Oak Ridge National Laboratories Science Alliance Award

A faculty member commented that some people at the university feel that plant breeding is so applied that it is not research.