

PRESS RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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AmericanHort Welcome Jill Calabro

Columbus, Ohio – AmericanHort is pleased to welcome Jill Calabro, Ph.D., as research and science programs director. Calabro will bring strategic direction and oversight to research funding by the Horticultural Research Institute, the research affiliate of AmericanHort, and to research initiatives carried out in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and others who share an interest in advancing horticulture industry progress through research. She will also apply scientific perspective to managing and resolving ongoing and emerging plant health, trade, and environmental challenges.

Calabro has an extensive background in the plant sciences; she received her Ph.D. in plant pathology from Oregon State University, working on powdery mildew of sweet cherry. Her M.S. degree, also in plant pathology, was awarded from the University of Minnesota, where her thesis dealt with heart rot of quaking aspen, and her B.S. is in Horticulture from Iowa State University. Jill also worked at the University of Wisconsin - Madison in the Department of Forestry as an outreach specialist for field grown poplars as a renewable resource.

For the past eight years, Jill gained experience in the horticulture industry working on product development and technical services in support of the nursery and greenhouse, turf, and aquatic plant management markets for Nufarm Americas by way of Valent USA. Calabro is affiliated with the Crop Science Society, American Phytopathological Society, Aquatic Plant Management Society, and Weed Science Society.

“We are thrilled to have Jill join the AmericanHort and Horticultural Research Institute team,” said Craig Regelbrugge, AmericanHort senior vice president for industry advocacy and research. “Horticulture faces big challenges, but even bigger opportunities, and her knowledge and passion for the industry will be a great asset for us.”

Jill resides in Annapolis, Maryland, and will work in the AmericanHort Washington, DC office.

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AmericanHort was formed in 2014 by the consolidation of the American Nursery & Landscape Association and OFA – The Association of Horticulture Professionals. With a combined history of 220+ years, AmericanHort supports nearly 16,000 member and affiliated businesses that include breeders, greenhouse and nursery growers, garden retailers, distributors, interior and exterior landscape professionals, florists, students, educators, researchers, manufacturers, and all of those who are part of the industry market chain. The horticulture industry's production, wholesale, retail, and landscape service components have annual sales of \$163 billion, and sustain over 1.15 million full- and part-time jobs. Our mission is to unite, promote, and advance the horticulture industry through advocacy, collaboration, connectivity, education, market development, and research. The association has offices in Columbus, Ohio for administration and member services, and in Washington, DC to facilitate government relations and research activities.