

Curriculum Vitae

Vikram Bradley Baliga, PhD

Assistant Dean of Outreach & Engagement

Texas Tech University Davis College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Assistant Professor of Practice of Horticulture

Texas Tech University Department of Plant and Soil Science

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Academic Background

Texas Tech University Ph.D. Plant and Soil Science Dissertation: <i>Behaviors, attitudes, and technologies influencing urban landscape water conservation in the Texas High Plains</i> ; Vikram B. Baliga*, Joey R. Young, Ryan Williams	2020
Texas Tech University M.S. Horticulture Thesis: <i>Effects of drought stress and climatic conditions on Olea europaea L. physiology and fruit set</i> ; Vikram B Baliga*, Thayne Montague, Cynthia McKenney	2012
Texas A&M University B.A. Horticulture Landscape Design Emphasis	2010

Academic and Professional Experience

Texas Tech University, Davis College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Assistant Dean of Outreach & Engagement	2024-Present
Texas Tech University, Department of Plant and Soil Science Assistant Professor of Practice of Horticulture	2023-Present
Texas Tech University, Department of Plant and Soil Science Lecturer of Horticulture, Greenhouse and Gardens Manager	2021-2023
Texas Tech University, Department of Plant and Soil Science Research Associate, Greenhouse and Gardens Manager	2018-2021
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Lubbock County County Extension Agent – Horticulture	2014-2018
Texas Tech University, Department of Plant and Soil Science Teaching/Research Assistant	2010-2012

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Baliga Woodworks Owner/Operator	2015-Present
Noble Farms Owner/Operator	2012-Present
Thrive Gardens and Landscapes Owner/Operator	2012-2014

Membership in Professional Societies

• American Public Garden Association	2023-Present
• Botanical Society of America	2022-Present
• American Society of Horticultural Science	2019-Present
• Crop Science Society of America	2018-Present
• Texas Nursery and Landscape Association	2018-Present
• Texas County Agricultural Agents Association	2014-2018

Honors and Awards

• TTU Davis College Outreach & Engagement Award	2024
• TTU Davis College Instructor Award	2022
• Texas Tech TLPDC Diamond Award for Innovative Teaching	2021
• Wolfforth, TX Chamber of Commerce "Walter Drop Award"	2016
• NCAAA Regional Communication Award, "Should I Run My Sprinklers" fact sheet	2016
• NCAAA Regional Communication Award, "Aquaponics" publication	2016
• TCAAA Communication Award, "Should I Run My Sprinklers" fact sheet	2016
• TCAAA Communication Award, "Aquaponics" publication	2016
• TCAAA Communication Award, "KFYO radio- grapes" audio recording	2016
• TCAAA Communication Award, "Frost damage on turf" published photo & caption	2016
• TCAAA Communication Award, "Tree Pruning" video presentation	2016
• TCAAA District 2 Early Career Agent award	2016
• Texas A&M AgriLife District 2 Excellence in Team Programming award	2015
• Texas A&M AgriLife District 2 New Agent Award	2015
• Texas A&M AgriLife Superior Service Award- Strawberry Project	2015

Areas of Expertise

- Urban landscape water conservation
- Controlled environment horticulture
- Urban and small farm food production and market gardening
- Multi-purpose landscape design
- In-person and virtual science communication and outreach

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Teaching Responsibilities

- PSS 3311- Sustainable Vegetable Production
- PSS 1411- Principles and practices of horticulture
 - Develop curriculum and teach 1 to 2 lecture sections per full semester as well as lab sections as needed
 - Oversee 2 additional lecture instructors, 5 teaching assistants, and overall course management
 - Approximately 800 students per year, total

5-year Teaching Evaluation Summary

New Evaluation System

Term/Class	# Students (Responding)	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	Overall Average
Fall 2024 PSS 3311	30 (15)	4.5	3.9	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.56
Fall 2024 PSS 1411-001	125 (37)	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Fall 2024 PSS 1411-003	108 (29)	4.7	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.86
	Average:	4.66	4.56	4.76	4.76	4.80	4.80	4.80	4.76	4.74
	Dept Average:	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.44
	College Average:	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.41
	University Average:	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4

Evaluation prompts are listed below:

1. Course assignments facilitated learning
2. Course was organized
3. Opportunities to be successful in course
4. Overall course helped learn required concepts/skills
5. Instructor presented material in a way that helped engage in course
6. Instructor helped to understand relevance of course content
7. Instructor tailored instructions/lessons to variety of perspectives
8. Overall, Instructor teaching methods helped to learn course content

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Old Evaluation System

Term/Class	# Students (# Responding)	Followed Course Objectives Question #1 Mean	Instructor Overall Question #2 Mean	Course Valuable Learning Experience Question #3 Mean	Overall Averages
Spring 2024 PSS 1411-001	121 (48)	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.76
Spring 2024 PSS 1411-511 XCL	28 (9)	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.53
Fall 2023 PSS 1411-001	137 (70)	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.83
Fall 2023 PSS 1411-518 XCL	26 (11)	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Fall 2023 PSS 1411- D01	46 (24)	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.3
Fall 2023 PSS 1411- D02	20 (20)	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.46
Spring 2023 PSS 1411-001	121 (62)	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.86
Fall 2022 PSS 1411-003	151 (85)	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.83
Fall 2022 PSS 1411- 501 XCL	28 (11)	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.6
Spring 2022 PSS 1411-003	126 (70)	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.83
Spring 2022 PSS 1411-001	45 (21)	5	5	4.9	4.96
Fall 2021 PSS 1411-003	153 (90)	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.86
Spring 2021 PSS 1411-001	104(39)	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
	Average:	4.77	4.76	4.64	4.72
	Dept Average:	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.53
	College Average:	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.36
	University Average:	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.36

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Student Advising and Oversight

Graduate Student Committees

Completed: 1 M.S.

Committee Member: 1

- Newberry, K. *, C. Simpson, V. Baliga, R. Wallace. 2023. Increasing Efficiency of Aeroponic Vegetable Production.

In Progress: 2

Committee Member: 2

- Ph.D., Jonah Trevino- Community horticulture
- M.S., Ivette Morales- Sociohorticulture

Undergraduate Honors Thesis advising

In Progress: 1

Undergraduate Advising

- Fall 2024- 27 students
- Spring 2024- 25 students
- Fall 2023- 26 Students
- Spring 2023- 25 students
- Fall 2022- 27 Students
- Spring 2022- 7 students

Publications

Published Books: 2

- Thomas, A. A., Baliga, V. B., Harp, E. P., McKenney, C., & Plowman, R. (2024). *Practices and Techniques in Horticulture* (8th ed.). Kendall Hunt.
- Baliga, V. B. (2023). *Plants to the rescue*. Neon Squid.

Published Book Chapters: 2

- Hill, P., Seger, J., & Baliga, V. B. (2018). Go the Extra Mile to Become Indispensable. In *We've tried that before: 500 Years of Extension wisdom*. Essay.
- Hill, P., Seger, J., & Baliga, V. B. (2018). Seek Out Influencers and Cultivate Relationships. In *We've tried that before: 500 Years of Extension wisdom*. Essay.

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Book Chapters in Press: 1

- Baliga, V.B. (2024). Animal Senses: Acacia Trees and Giraffes. In *Benchmark Education Reading Curriculum*.

Refereed Journal Articles: Total Published 1

- Baliga, V.B., Young, J.R. and Carrillo, M.A. (2019), Evaluation of Water Retention Products to Conserve Urban Water Resources in Home Lawns. *Crop, Forage & Turfgrass Management*, 5: 1-9 190051. <https://doi.org/10.2134/cftm2019.07.0051>

Abstracts: Total of 5

- Trevino, J.*, L. Thompson, L. Fischer, V. Baliga, and C. Simpson. 2024. Educational Signage in a Community Garden can Assist in Volunteer Learning. *American Society of Horticultural Science*.
- Baliga, V. 2024. Using our space wisely: Urban foodscaping and the multi-purpose landscape. *Texas Nursery and Landscape Association*.
- Newberry, K.*, C. Simpson, and V. Baliga. 2022. Comparing Lettuce Production in Aeroponic and Hydroponic Production Systems. *American Society of Horticultural Science*.
- Newberry, K.*, C. Simpson, and V. Baliga. 2022. The Effects of Aeroponic Production on Lettuce Growth and Root Development.. *American Society of Horticultural Science*.
- Baliga*, V. and J. Young. 2017. Effects of consumer end conservation products on bermudagrass quality in severe drought conditions. *Crop Science Society of America Abstract #107197*.
- Baliga*, V. and J. Young. 2017. Motivations for water conservation among homeowners in semi-arid West Texas. *Crop Science Society of America Abstract #128-3*.

Popular Media Publications

- Talking Climate Newsletter with Dr. Katharine Hayhoe- Guest Contributor
"The Plant Prof" talks horticulture! Guest edition" 2024

Other Publications: Total of 10

- TTU Plant and Soil Science Calendar, 2024-2025 Academic Year, "Around Campus" 2024
- TTU Plant and Soil Science Calendar, 2024, "A Closer Look" 2024
- TTU Plant and Soil Science Calendar, 2023, "Around Campus" 2023
- TTU Plant and Soil Science Calendar, 2022, "West Texas Skies" 2022
- TTU Plant and Soil Science Calendar, 2021 "Patterns in Nature" 2021
- TTU Plant and Soil Science Calendar, 2020, "South Plains Pollinators" 2020
- TTU Plant and Soil Science Calendar, 2019, "Trees of Texas Tech" 2019
- "Texas Olives", One-pager 2015
- "Maintaining a Healthy Lawn", One-pager 2015
- "Lubbock County Rain Facts", One-Pager 2015
- "Trusty Fall Favorites", One-pager 2015
- "Good bug, Bad bug", One-pager 2015
- "Fall Color", One-pager 2015

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- “Should I Run My Sprinklers?”, One-pager 2015
- “Create Your Own Aquaponics System”, One-pager 2015

Media Contributions: Total of 7

- Planthropology Podcast- 139 episodes and 230,000 downloads as of 12/31/2024
- In the Grow Podcast/NPR Radio Show w/ TTU Public Media- 76 episodes and 17,000 downloads as of 12/31/2024
- The Plant Prof Podcast- 40 episodes and 5,000 downloads
- Podcast Guest Appearances- 60 as of 12/31/2024
- Radio Guest Appearances- 150 as of 12/31/2024
- TV News Appearances- 32 as of 12/31/2024
- Print News Articles (quoted)- 38 as of 12/31/2024
- @ThePlantProf Social Media profiles- 105,000 followers total across platforms as of 12/31/2024

Programs and Events

- Ag-in-the-Bag, Planning Committee 2024
- TTU Greenhouse and Horticultural Gardens Fall Field Day, Planning Committee, Annual 2018-Present
- Texas Nursery and Landscape Association Summer Expo, Recruiting Booth, Annual 2020-Present
- Texas Nursery and Landscape Association West Texas Workshop, Planning Committee, Speaker, Reception Host, Annual 2023-Present
- TTU Advisor’s Breakfast, Host, Semi-Annual 2018-Present
- South Plains Fair Horticulture Show, Educational/Recruiting Booth 2024
- Armadillo Camera and Canon Photo Walk, Event Partner/Host 2024
- Small Farms and Local Foods Conference, Planning Committee 2016-2017
- South Plains Water Expo, City of Wolfforth, Planning Committee 2015-2016

Presentations and Lectures: Total of 180

Public Presentations and Invited Guest Lectures- Selected Titles

- National Junior Master Gardener Convention- Keynote, “Plants Always Win – Telling Kids the Story of Our Leafy Friends” 2024
- PSS 4301- Agricultural Compounds, “IPM in a Greenhouse” 2024
- ACOM 2302- Science Communication in Agriculture and Natural Resources, “Online Science Communication and Building a Personal Brand” 2024
- PSS 4314- Horticultural Enterprises, “Managing a Greenhouse” 2024
- Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, West Texas Turfgrass and Irrigation Conference- “Multi-Purpose Landscapes” 2024
- Keep Waco Beautiful Green Communities Conference- Keynote, “Using our space wisely: Urban foodscaping and the multi-purpose landscape” 2024
- Keep Waco Beautiful Green Communities Conference- “Water Conserving Landscapes” 2024
- Lubbock Master Gardener Association- “Plant Propagation and Ornamental Horticulture” 2024
- South Plains Fair Horticulture Show- “Benefits of Community Horticulture” 2024

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• TTU Alumni Association Legacy U- "Xeriscapes and Succulent Planting"	2024
• Agrilife Extension Turf & Ornamental Workshop- "Pest and Disease Management In an Urban Foodscape"	2024
• Lubbock Arboretum Second Saturday- "Efficient Irrigation Systems"	2024
• Texas Nursery and Landscape Association Lone Star Hort Forum- "Multi-Purpose Urban Landscapes"	2024
• Mississippi State Media in Agriculture- Guest Lecture, "Podcasting"	2023
• Lubbock Arboretum Second Saturday- "Fruit Trees for West Texas"	2023
• Heart of Lubbock Garden- "Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop"	2023
• KTTZ- "In the Grow Live"	2023
• Books of Wonder- "Non-Fiction Children's Authors Panel"	2023
• Missoula, MO Public Library- "An Intro to Botany"	2023
• Fort Worth Yard Smart Conference- "Urban Agriculture: Hydroponics, Aquaponics, and the Multi-Purpose Landscape"	2023
• Texas Nursery and Landscape Association West Texas Workshop- "Using Our Space Wisely: Multi-Purpose Urban Landscapes"	2023
• PSS 4323- Organic Crop Production, "Organic Fruit Tree Crops"	2022
• Lubbock Avalanche Journal Live- "Winter Landscape Tips"	2022
• TTU Climate Science Center Science by the Glass- "Multi-Purpose Landscapes"	2022
• TTU Museum- "Cacti and life in the desert"	2022
• JOUR 4350- "Building Your Personal and Professional Brand"	2022
• TTU Public Media- "In the Grow Live"	2022
• PSS 1100-Frehsman and Transfer Seminar, "Using Social Media Effectively"	2022
• Lubbock Master Gardener Intern Class- "Plant Growth and Development"	2022
• West Texas Golf Course Superintendent Association- "Multi-Purpose Landscapes"	2021
• West Texas Golf Course Superintendent Association- "Water Resource Management"	2021
• Lubbock Master Gardener Intern Class- "Plant Biology"	2021
• Lubbock Arboretum Second Saturday- "Urban Tree Care"	2021
• Texas Master Gardener Association Meeting- "Garden Tour"	2020
• PSS 4314- "Greenhouse Management"	2020
• Perian Sorosis- "Landscape Water conservation"	2020
• Ag Comm3301- "Podcasting in Ag Sciences"	2020
• PSS 4323- "Organic Fruit Tree Crops"	2019
• West Texas Golf Course Association- "Wetting Agents and Conservation"	2019
• Lubbock Master Gardener Association- "Succulents"	2019
• Ag Comm 2302- "Social Media in Ag Communication"	2019
• Texas Pest Control Association West Texas Conference- "Tree Care"	2019
• City of Lubbock Water Smart Series- "Mulch"	2019
• City of Lubbock Water Smart Series- "West Texas Soils"	2019
• Lubbock Arboretum Second Saturday- "Spring Landscapes"	2019
• Lubbock Master Gardener Intern Class- "Plant Pathology"	2019
• Lubbock Master Gardener Intern Class- "Plant Nutrient Management"	2019
• Ag Comm 2302- "Social Media in Ag Communication"	2018
• South Plains Food Bank- "Production of Winter Crops"	2018
• Lubbock Stored Grain Workshop- "Weed control in industrial areas"	2018
• Tarrant County Pros in Parks, Fort Worth- "IPM Weed control"	2017
• Tarrant County Pros in Parks, Arlington- "IPM Weeds Control"	2017
• West Texas American Society of Landscape Architects CEU workshop- "Rain gardens"	2017

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- Small Farm and Local Foods Conference- “Pomegranates for West Texas” 2017
- Small Farm and Local Foods Conference- “Marketing your local food business: putting your best foot forward” 2017
- Commercial Turf and Ornamental Workshop- “Understanding Sprayer Calibration” 2017
- Texas Pest Control Association Lubbock Workshop- “IPM Principles for the Urban Landscape” 2016
- Texas Pest Control Association Lubbock Workshop- “Lawn and Garden Management” 2016
- Tarrant County Earth-Kind Short Course- “Landscape Turf Management and Selection” 2016
- Tarrant County Earth-Kind Short Course- “IPM: Weeds, the plants you didn’t ask for” 2016
- Amarillo Ornamental and Turf Conference- “Landscape Maintenance Principles” 2016
- Small Farm and Local Foods Conference- “Building a healthy soil” 2016
- High Plains Water District Rainwater Harvesting Workshop, Levelland- “Xeriscape 101” 2016
- High Plains Water District Rainwater Harvesting Workshop, Plainview- “Xeriscape 101” 2016
- South Plains Water Expo- “Xeriscape 101” 2016
- Commercial Turf and Ornamental Workshop- “IPM Principles for the Urban Landscape” 2016
- TTU/Agrilife Turfgrass management field day- “Wetting agents in turf” 2016
- Texas Pest Control Association Lubbock Workshop- “Weed Control in the West Texas Landscape” 2015
- Commercial Turf and Ornamental Workshop- “Urban Tree Care and Pest Management” 2015
- Lubbock Arboretum Second Saturday - “Tree Care in the Urban Landscape” 2015
- Buddy Holly Center Arid Lands Workshop- “Xeriscaping 101” 2015
- Wolfforth Water Expo- “Xeriscaping 101” 2015
- Wolfforth Water Expo- “Plant Selection” 2015
- TTU Turfgrass Management Field Day- “Tree-Turf Relations” 2015
- Science Spectrum Taste of Science- “From Seed to Table” 2015
- Texas Tech Museum Science Made Simple educational booth- Aquaponics and Seed Bombs 2015
- Texas Pest Control Association Lubbock Workshop- “Urban Tree Care” 2015
- Growing Healthy Texas- “Building coalitions for community garden projects” 2014
- Growing Healthy Texas- “Community garden leadership training” 2014
- Texas Pest Control Association Lubbock Workshop- “Water-smart plant selection and xeriscaping” 2014
- Texas Pest Control Association Lubbock Workshop- “Tree care and management” 2014
- South Plains Underground Water Conservation District workshop- “Xeriscaping” 2014
- Lubbock Arboretum Second Saturday- “Water-smart plant selection in west Texas” 2014
- Lubbock Area Republican Women monthly meeting- “Water-smart landscape design” 2014
- Lubbock Master Gardener Association monthly meeting- “Texas olive cultivation” 2014
- TTU Turfgrass Field Day- “Xeriscaping and native plants” 2014
- Wolfforth Water Expo- “Water-smart plant selection” 2014
- Lubbock United Neighborhood Association annual meeting- “Community gardens and water conservation” 2014
- Heart of Lubbock Community Garden Harvest Festival- “Rainwater harvesting” 2014
- Heart of Lubbock Community Garden Harvest Festival- “Water-smart landscape design principals” 2014

Service

National

- Southern Region Local Food Systems Working Group 2017

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State

- West Texas Workshop Planning Committee
Texas Nursery and Landscape Association 2023-Present
- Lone Star Hort Forum Planning Committee, Education Chair- Students,
Texas Nursery and Landscape Association 2021-2024
- National FFA AgriScience Fair Team Consultant, Jayton-Girard ISD 2024

Local

- Lubbock Memorial Arboretum Board 2021-Present

University

- Engaged Colleges Program, TTU 2024-Present

College

- Ag-in-the-Bag Planning Committee, TTU Davis College 2024-Present
- Pursuit of Prime Fundraising Committee, TTU Davis College 2024-Present
- O&E Strategic Planning Committee, TTU Davis College 2024-Present
- Outreach & Engagement P&T Committee, TTU Davis College 2024-Present

Department

- TTU PSS SALE Horticulture Scholarship Committee 2024

Professional Development

- Engaged Scholarship Consortium, Portland, OR 2024
- Green Communities Conference, Waco, TX 2024
- Davis College Faculty Fellows Cohort 5, Lubbock, TX 2023-2024

Grants and Awards: total funded- \$18,191.36

Funded:

- Longing, Scott (Lead Principal Investigator), Young, Joey (Principal Investigator), Baliga, Vikram, "A Demonstration Garden to Promote Pollinators, Urban Water Conservation and Community Outreach," Sponsored by High Plains Underground Water District No. 1, \$9,232.00. (October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2021).
- Young, Joseph (Lead Principal Investigator), Montague, David (Principal Investigator), Baliga, Vikram (Supporting), "Effect of shade on growth, water use, and photosynthetic rate of common turfgrass species," Sponsored by High Plains Underground Water District No. 1, Local Govt, \$5,912.80. (October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020).

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- Longing, Scott (Lead Principal Investigator), Baliga, Vikram. "A Demonstration Garden to Promote Pollinators, Urban Water Conservation and Community Outreach," Sponsored by High Plains Underground Water District No. 1, \$3,046.56. (October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020).

Non-Funded:

- Young, Joseph (Lead Principal Investigator), Plowman, Russell (Principal Investigator), Baliga, Vikram (Principal Investigator), "Conquering sustainability hurdles in golf course native areas," Sponsored by United States Golf Association, Other Nonprofit Org, \$107,664.00.
- Young, Joseph (Lead Principal Investigator), Longing, Scott (Principal Investigator), Montague, David, Baliga, Vikram (Supporting), Plowman, Russell (Supporting), "Water Conserving, Perennial Landscape Plants for Pollinator and Personal Attraction," Sponsored by Horticulture Research Institute, Industry/For Profit, \$21,526.00.

Gifts and In-Kind Donations: total of \$177,000

- Burkhart Center Sensory Garden Donor Support- \$50,000 (2023)
- Funds raised through plant sales and fundraisers for the TTU PSS Greenhouse and Horticultural Gardens- \$100,000 (2018-2024)
- Land and resources for the Heart of Lubbock Community Garden- \$27,000 (in-kind) (2020)

Internal Funding: total of \$419,415

- TTU Botanical Garden Sensory Garden, TTU Davis College- \$29,415 (2025)
- TTU Botanical Garden Learning Pavilion, TTU Facilities Allocations Council- \$100,000 (2023)
- TTU Botanical Garden Learning Pavilion, TTU Davis College- \$180,000 (2021)
- Greenhouse Fan System Renovation Funds, TTU Davis College- \$110,000 (2021)