

**Title: Arbuscular mycorrhizal symbiosis in viticulture**

Biography: Dr. Mariam Berdeja is a new assistant professor in Viticulture at Texas Tech University and her research focuses on grapevine adaptation and resilience to climate change. Her primary work is focused on grapevine scion/rootstock combinations and soil microbiome interactions, and how these interactions influence both above- and below-ground plant characteristics with the goal of enhancing grapevine adaptation to biotic and abiotic stress and ultimately improve grape and wine quality, while also providing significant economic and environmental benefits by reducing the environmental footprint of the grape and wine industry.