

# STAFF PROFILE CONTENT BRIEF

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## DESIGNATION

### (LECTURER)



**Title & Name:** Dr Pravin Mark Maistry  
**Qualification & Institution:** PhD Botany, University of Cape Town  
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**Campus:** ML Sultan Campus  
**Area of Expertise:** Botany, Plant ecophysiology, Horticulture.

**Short Bio:** I joined the Horticulture Department as a lecturer in August 2020. In my PhD, I used detailed and innovative experiments on plant roots and their symbionts to investigate resource limitation, and nutrient acquisition mechanisms of N<sub>2</sub>-fixing legume species, in the nutrient poor soils of the Cape fynbos biome. Thereafter, I was a Claude Leon Postdoctoral Fellow in Forest Molecular Genetics, in the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria. Here I studied the genetics and biochemistry of wood formation in *Eucalyptus*, using the model species *Arabidopsis thaliana*. In September 2018, I was appointed as Specialist Propagation Science at Mondi's nursery in Hilton. Research was conducted in vegetative plant propagation of newly commercialised *Eucalyptus* hybrids, greenhouse management, and applied plant ecophysiology. I have a Chefs Diploma (Culinary Arts), and in addition to working and running my own businesses in the food industry, I have also worked for Eskom as an Environmental Officer, the Department of Science and Technology, and Deloitte.

**Academic Interests:** My research focus is in the application of plant ecophysiology to horticulture through the hypothesis-driven study of root traits for tolerance of nutrient limitation and drought. I am also engaged in the use of vetiver grass (*Chrysopogon zizanioides*), and the technology of hydroponics, in urban farming. I lecture 1st-year and 2nd-year Plant Sciences modules, and Horticultural Management in the Postgraduate Diploma. A member of the research committee of the Seedling Growers Association of South Africa (SGASA).

**Research Links:** [Scopus ID](#)