

PLANT PATHOLOGY 250 SEMINAR SERIES

Thursday, October 22, 2026
12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.



Zac Freedman, Associate Professor and O.N. Allen Professor of Soil Microbiology, Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Seminar Title: “Microbial mediation of forest soil carbon fluxes in the Anthropocene”

Biography: Zac Freedman is an Associate Professor and the O.N. Allen Professor of Soil Microbiology in the Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is the PI of the Freedman Lab, whose research focuses on understanding how soil microbial communities regulate biogeochemical cycling, with particular emphasis on carbon and nitrogen dynamics in agricultural and natural ecosystems. By integrating microbial ecology theory, field-based experimentation, and molecular tools, his lab’s work seeks to link microbial community structure and function to ecosystem processes such as substrate use efficiency, soil carbon persistence, greenhouse gas emissions, and plant productivity. Freedman’s group also seeks to better understand, manage, and predict soil microbial processes in the context of global change. He is committed to mentoring students and staff and fostering interdisciplinary collaborations that bridge the fields of soil science, environmental science, and ecology to address pressing challenges in ecosystem sustainability.

Location: Genomics Auditorium 1102A

Seminar Host: Dr. Sydney Glassman