

**Candidate for the position of Assistant Professor/ Assistant Entomologist in Agroecology and sustainable pest management:****DR. SAMANTHA A. WILLDEN**Postdoctoral Researcher at Purdue University,
Department of Entomology

Date: Thursday, April 4, 2024
Time: 10:00 am - 10:50 am
Format: In-Person Seminar & Virtual Access
Location: Genomics Auditorium, Room 1102A
Zoom: 983 6120 0167
Passcode: 818719

Title:

“Supporting tomorrow’s food systems: ecologically based tools in pest management tailored to urban farms and controlled environment agriculture”

Abstract:

Urbanization, biodiversity loss, and climate uncertainty are major challenges facing agricultural systems in California. To meet increasing consumer demand while preserving land and natural resources, urban farming and controlled environment agriculture (i.e., producing in high tunnels, greenhouses, indoor vertical farms, and other structures of protected cultivation), are increasing in adoption among specialty crop growers. However, research in ecologically based solutions for pest management and knowledge transfer in these systems is lagging the rate of adoption. This seminar will discuss the benefits and challenges of sustainable pest management in controlled environments on urban vs. rural farms across the eastern U.S., with a focus on biological control. Future pathways and a vision to apply these principles to diverse farms in California will be discussed to improve the sustainability of these important agroecosystems in the future.

<https://ucr.zoom.us/j/98361200167?pwd=cWsyY2N4U2dEaUIZM0ExQkkzbC9ldz09>