

Alexis Boyd

Alexis Boyd is an ambitious student who is pursuing a bachelors in Horticulture. Afterwards, she plans to earn a masters and PhD in Plant Pathology. From a young age, she desired to understand plants and their environments, and the main way of obtaining this knowledge was through books and research. Through reading, she soon discovered that this science was known as horticulture. Alexis has broad experiences within the horticulture industry. She worked at a local plant nursery for two years gaining valuable skills in greenhouse work, can yards, pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer use. As well as valuable plant knowledge on how to identify, to care for, to display, and to sell plants. Most importantly, she learned that in this field having the capability to educate and communicate with the general public is indispensable.

These skills qualified Alexis for apposition in the Sweet Potato Pathology Lab on LSU campus. In this position, she is responsible for maintaining all tissue cultures for both research and planting stock purposes, for running virus screening on new cultivars, and for running resistance experiments for viruses and nematodes. Within this position Alexis has been able to start her own undergraduate research project. Her experiment is focused on improving the quality and expanding the effectiveness of the long-term conservation method for sweet potato tissue cultures. She intends to accomplish this by developing a growing medium which will allow cultures to be grown for eight to twelve months between sub-cultures. Alexis is also working with several other Plant Pathologist at LSU and assisting in their research.

Alexis has experience in both the horticulture and plant pathological field. She intends to further her career in plant pathology by pursuing both a Master's and PhD in Plant Pathology.