



## **2025 Plant CA Alliance Research Award Recipient**

Dr. Johanna Del Castillo Múnera, Assistant Professor of Cooperative Extension  
Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Davis  
Accreditation to Improve Restoration (AIR) Program



Dr. Johanna Del Castillo Múnera was selected as the Plant California Alliance (PCA) Research Award recipient by PCA's research committee. This award began in 1966 and recognizes an individual for their research work that benefits the California nursery industry.

The Research Committee, chaired by Fred Ceballos, chose Dr. Del Castillo Múnera for her current work on two grant projects for the California nursery industry, in addition to her efforts as an instructor and presenter providing educational workshops in Spanish. The two projects are: 1) "Adapting to Reduce Water Availability in California Nurseries: Identifying Pathogen Risk of Reusing Irrigation Water" and 2) "Efficacy and Crop Safety of Miravis Prime for the Control of Fusarium Wilt in Greenhouse-grown Cucumber." In addition, she has collaborated on many peer-reviewed publications, most recently a publication titled, "Evaluating Oomycete Pathogen and Community Responses to Chemical – and Slow Sand Filtration-based Water Treatment Strategies to Enable Water Recycling in Nursery Production Systems."

Her interests include developing and improving sustainable solutions for disease control through studies of fungal and oomycete biology, population genetics, and community ecology. Dr. Del Castillo Múnera earned a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and a Master of Science in Biological Sciences from the Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Columbia. She earned her Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Michigan State University.

Dr. Del Castillo Múnera will be recognized at the California Nursery Conference on September 10, 2025. She will also present during the conference at the English and Spanish sessions. Please join us in honoring her and the work she has conducted for the California nursery industry.