

## **RICHARD W. HARPER**

Extension Associate Professor  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
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### **Website:**

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[www.urbanforestrytoday.org](http://www.urbanforestrytoday.org)

### **Degrees:**

PhD Candidate, Forest Resources/Arboriculture  
MS Entomology

University of Massachusetts 2019 (anticip.)  
University of Nebraska 2005

### **UMass Employment:**

2018 – Present Extension Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Conservation  
2012 – 2018 Extension Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Conservation

## **RESEARCH**

### **Areas of specialization:**

Host Plant Resistance; Human Dimensions of Urban Natural Resources; Urban Tree Performance

### **Program Description:**

As Extension faculty, my position involves initiating & expanding a broad-based integrated research & extension program in support of the management of municipal forests & urban landscapes. I administer the 'Urban Forestry Today' monthly webcasts, designed to meet real-time educational needs of practitioners & I closely align outreach-programming efforts with cooperating associations & agencies. I regularly contribute to newsletters (ISA New England *Chapter Newsletter*; MA DCR *Citizen Forester*) read by professionals & tree enthusiasts across Massachusetts & New England.

### **Current student research projects:**

Tierney Bocsi *Implications of establishing urban oak spp.* MS, Dept. of Environ. Cons.  
Ashley McElhinney *Ecological considerations of urban tree selection* MS, Dept. of Environ. Cons.

### **Grants/Donations (since 2013):**

2018-2019	Harper (PI)	USDA, McIntire Stennis Funds	\$45,000
2018-2019	Harper (PI)	Dep't of Env. Cons. summer fund (competitive)	\$3,500
2017-2018	Harper (PI)	USDA, McIntire Stennis Funds	\$34,000
2016-2017	Harper (PI)	USDA, McIntire Stennis Funds	\$19,900
2015-2016	Harper (PI)	USDA, McIntire Stennis Funds	\$25,000
2014-2015	Harper (PI)	USDA, McIntire Stennis Funds	\$10,850
2014-2015	Harper (Donation Recipient)	Town of Amherst	\$23,560
2014-2015	Harper (Donation Recipient)	University of New Hampshire	\$10,000
2013-2014	Kane/Harper (Co-PI's)	USDA, McIntire Stennis Funds	\$30,950
2013-2014	Harper (PI)	USDA, Exper Stat./Smith Lever Funds	\$7,000
2012-2013	Harper (Donation Recipient)	International Society of Arboriculture	\$50,000
2012-2013	Kane/Harper (Co-PI's)	USDA, McIntire Stennis Funds	\$39,100

MSP Research Support Fund \$800 (Annual since 2012)

Center for Teaching Excellence Flex Grant \$500 (Annual since 2012)

MA Department of Conservation and Recreation Cooperative Agreement \$32,500 (Annual since 2016)

### **Refereed Journal Articles:**

Dampier, J.E., **R.W. Harper**, A. McElhinney and E. Biltonen. 2018. HortTechnology 28(5): 624-628.

**Harper, R.W.**, E.S. Huff, D.V. Bloniarz, S. DeStefano and C.R. Nicolson. 2018. Urban Forestry & Urban Greening 34: 311-317.

Bocsi, T.J., P.S. Warren, **R.W. Harper** and S. DeStefano. 2018. Cities and the Environment 11(1): 1-14.

**Harper, R.W.**, D.V. Bloniarz, S. DeStefano, C.R. Nicolson. 2017. Arboricultural Journal 41(3): 1-19.

Scharenbroch, B.C., D. Carter, M. Bialecki, R. Fahey, L. Scheberl, M. Catania, L.A. Roman, N.L. Bassuk, **R.W. Harper**, L. Werner, A. Siewert, S. Miller, L. Hutyra and S. Raciti. 2017. Urban Forestry & Urban Greening 27: 279-286.

Yin, J., **R.W. Harper** and N.L. Bassuk. 2017. Journal of Environmental Horticulture 35(2): 79-83.

Lemelin, R.H., J. Dampier, **R.W. Harper**, R. Bowles and D. Balika. 2017. Society & Animals. DOI: 10.1163/15685306-12341469.

Allen, K.S., **R.W. Harper**, A. Bayer and N.J. Brazee. 2017. Urban Forestry & Urban Greening 21(1): 183-191.

**Harper, R.W.** and P.A. Weston. 2016. Arboriculture & Urban Forestry 42(5): 346-354.

**Harper, R.W.**, W.R. Autio, J.T. Finn and F.S. Rossi. 2016. Arboricultural Journal 40(3): 1-13.

Markarian, G., **R.W. Harper** and D.V. Bloniarz. 2016. Arboricultural Journal 38(1): 1-13.

Lemelin, R.H., **R.W. Harper**, J. Dampier, R. Bowles and D. Balika. 2016. Animal Studies Journal 5(1): 65-79.

Green, B.L., **R.W. Harper** and D.A. Lass. 2015. HortTechnology 25(5): 651-656.

Dampier, J.E.E., **R.W. Harper**, L. Schwartzberg and R.H. Lemelin. 2015. Arboriculture & Urban Forestry 41(1): 41-48.

Clapp, J.C., H. D.P. Ryan III, **R.W. Harper** and D.V. Bloniarz. 2014. Arboricultural Journal 36(3): 161-178.

**Harper, R.W.** and R.S. Cowles. 2013. Arboriculture & Urban Forestry 39(1): 6-10.

Weston, P.A. and **R.W. Harper**. 2009. Arboriculture & Urban Forestry 35(1): 5-9.

## TEACHING

### UMass Teaching & Evaluations (since 2013):

Course	Name	Frequency Taught	Composite SRTI Score*
NRC 340	Plant Health Care (Form. NRC 390G)	5x	4.6
NRC 310	Community Forestry	3x	4.6
NRC 492A	Verbal Communication	3x	4.1

\*Student response to three global questions (#10, #11, & #12) from the SRTI course evaluation instrument are averaged, and the mean of the average for these three questions are generated to develop a composite evaluation score /5.

## SERVICE

### UMass Highlights

1. Search Committee Member. Agriculture Program Director, UMass Extension (2018-19).
2. Search Committee Chair. Urban Forestry/Arboriculture Program Lecturer, Dep't of Environmental Conservation (2018).
3. Interim Coordinator. Arboriculture & Community Forestry Program, Stockbridge School of Agriculture (January – August, 2018).
4. Search Committee Member. Urban Forestry/Arboriculture Program Lecturer, Dep't of Environmental Conservation (2015).

### Non-UMass Highlights

Off-campus Association Leadership/Service:

1. International Society of Arboriculture – New England Chapter (President, 2019)
2. Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association (Board of Directors)
3. USDA Forest Service – Urban Forest Strike Team (Advisory Board)
4. ReGreen Springfield (Board of Directors)

## Awards

2017 Honor Award (shared) – USDA Forest Service

2015 President's Award – Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

2015 Sharon J. Lilly Award of Achievement – International Society of Arboriculture