

THE INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Jean Beagle Ristaino

Dr. Ristaino is a professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University. She earned a B.S. in biological sciences with a botany emphasis in 1979 and an M.S. in plant pathology from the University of Maryland in 1982. She worked in the Soilborne Diseases Laboratory, USDA, Beltsville, from 1982 to 1984. She earned her Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of California, Davis, in 1987. She joined the faculty at North Carolina State University in October 1987. Her research has focused primarily on the ecology and epidemiology of soilborne plant pathogens, including *Phytophthora* species on pepper, potato, tomato, and soybean, and *Sclerotium rolfsii* on vegetable crops. A major goal of her work is to develop ecologically based disease management practices that reduce our reliance on pesticides. She has pioneered work on the use of historic specimens in studies of the migration of plant pathogens. Her current work involves studies of the molecular evolution and migration of the potato late blight pathogen *Phytophthora infestans*.

Dr. Ristaino was the 1993 recipient of the outstanding researcher award from the North Carolina State University Chapter of Sigma Xi. She served as an American Association for the Advancement of Science Summer Environmental Policy Fellow in Washington, DC, where she worked in the Office of Atmospheric Programs on the phase-out of methyl bromide. She teaches a graduate course entitled "Agriculture, Ethics, and the Environment" and a course in Tropical Plant Pathology.