Emma Volk
Production Horticulture Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension
Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties
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Work Experience

2023-Present: Production Horticulture Advisor @ UC Cooperative Extension, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties

2019-2023: Research Assistant @ North Carolina State University, Horticultural Sciences Department

Education

M.S. in Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, 2023

Topic: Steam as a methyl bromide alternative in strawberry nursery production

Advisor: Dr. Mark Hoffmann

B.S. in International Agriculture and Rural Development, Cornell University, 2019

Publications

Refereed Journal Publications

Heagy, K., **Volk, E.**, Talton, W., Al Rwahnih, M., Sudarshana, M. R., Almeyda, C., ... & Hoffmann, M. 2026. Incidence of Grapevine (*Vitis vinifera* Cultivars) Infecting Viruses in Winegrowing Regions of North Carolina. Plant Health Progress, PHP-08. https://doi.org/10.1094/PHP-08-25-0209-RS.

Volk, E, Fox, G, Fennimore, S, Neal, J, Hoffmann, M. 2025. Impact of soil-applied steam in combination with exothermic chemicals on weed and pathogen survival. Hortscience, 60(11):2047-2055. https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI18709-25.

Volk, E, Jennings, K, Fennimore, SF, Hoffmann, M. 2023. Preplant application of Allyl Isothiocyanate controls weeds and pathogens in eastern North Carolina strawberry (*Fragaria x ananassa* cv. Camarosa) with and without addition of soil-applied steam. HortScience. 58(10). https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI17321-23.

Dankbar, H, Phillips, E., Cruz, A., **Volk, E**, Hoffmann, M. 2021. Market challenges for local specialty crop producers during the early phase of COVID-19 in North Carolina. Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development. 10(4). 10.5304/jafscd.2021.104.004.

Submitted Manuscripts

Middleton, E., **Volk, E**. 2026. First report of *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* in multiple counties in Southern California, USA. Submitted at Journal of Integrated Pest Management.

Extension Publications

Volk, E., Middleton, E. 2026. New Thrips Species Found in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Diego Counties. UC Nursery and Floriculture Alliance Newsletter. https://ucnfa.ucdavis.edu/news/new-thrips-species-found-ventura-san-diego-and-santa-barbara-counties.

Volk, E. 2026. Optimizing Nutrient Application for Vegetable Transplants. UC Nursery and Floriculture Alliance Newsletter. https://ucnfa.ucdavis.edu/news/optimizing-nutrient-application-vegetable-transplants.

Andrews, E., **Volk, E.**, Lazicki, P., Lloyd, M. 2025. A Strong Start: Organic Nutrient Management for Vegetable Transplants. University of California Cooperative Extension. https://ucanr.edu/sites/default/files/2025-11/A%20Strong%20Start-%20Organic%20Nutrient%20Management%20for%20Vegetable%20Transplants.pdf.

Volk, E. 2025. Optimizing nutrient application in nursery production. Ventura County Farm Bureau Newsletter.

Spinelli, G., **Volk, E**., Merhaut, D. 2024. pH Management in Liquid Feed for Nursery and Greenhouse Production. UC Nursery and Floriculture Alliance Newsletter. https://ucnfa.ucdavis.edu/news/ph-management-liquid-feed-nursery-and-greenhouse-production.

Volk, E. 2024. Steam Use in Greenhouse and Nursery Systems. Ventura County Farm Bureau Newsletter.

Poling, B., Hoffmann, M., Lewis, A., Jones, W., **Volk, E**. 2022. A challenging strawberry season: Results of the 2021-2022 advanced selection and cultivar trial at Cottle Farms. Strawberry Assoc. Newsletter, July 2022.

Hoffmann, M., **Volk, E**., Talton, W., Al Rhawini, M., Almeyda, C., Blaauw, B. and Bertone, M. 2021. Virus distribution, identification, and management in North Carolina. NC Cooperative Extension AG Publication. https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/grapevine-virus-distributionidentification-and-management-in-north-carolina.

Poling, B., Hoffmann, M., Jones, W., **Volk, E.** 2021. Our continuing search for better strawberry varieties. Strawberry Assoc. Newsletter, July 2021.

Dankbar, H., Cruz, A., Hoffmann, M., **Volk, E**. and Zuco, S. 2021. Market Challenges for Specialty Crop Producers in North Carolina During Summer, Fall and Winter. NC Cooperative Extension Fact-Sheet. 3pp. https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/market-challenges-for-specialty-crop-producers-innorth-carolina-during-the-summer-fall-and-winter.

Hoffmann, M, **Volk, E.**, and Peres, N. 2021. Strawberry plasticulture producers guide: Hurricane preparation and recovery in the Southeastern United States. Gen. Tech. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 46 pp. https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Strawberry%20Producers%20Guide_North%20Carolina.pdf.

Presentations

Scientific

Volk, E. Cohen, H. Influence of Nitrogen Application on Western Flower Thrips and Aphid Populations in Gerbera Daisy Production. American Society of Horticultural Science, Dallas, TX, August 2026.

Volk, E., Cohen, H. Influence of Nitrogen Application on Western Flower Thrips and Aphid Populations in Gerbera Daisy Production. Entomological Society of America, International Branch Virtual Symposium, April 2026.

Heagy, K., Almeyda, C., **Volk, E.**, Al Rhawini, M., Hoffmann, M. Identification and Prevalence of Grapevine Virus Diseases in North Carolina. American Society for Horticultural Science, Honolulu, HI, September 2024.

Volk, E., Oki, L., Pitton, B. Optimizing Nutrient Management in Vegetable Transplant Production. American Society for Horticultural Science, Honolulu, HI, September 2024.

Volk, E., Jennings, K., Fennimore, S., Neal, J., Hoffmann, M. Controlling Weeds and Pathogens through a Combination of Steam and Allyl-Isothiocyanate in NC Strawberry Production. American Society for Horticultural Science, Chicago, IL, July 2022.

Extension

2026: 10 presentations and workshops

2025: 11 presentations and workshops

2024: 15 presentations and workshops