

# Nestor Kippes

## Address:

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## Nationality:

US Citizen  
Argentinean Citizen  
EU Citizen (Italian)

Dynamic, hands-on leader with over a decade of experience driving agricultural innovation from concept to field deployment. Proven expertise in bridging R&D and technology validation to accelerate crop improvement and enable real-world impact. Skilled at managing diverse teams, coordinating complex multi-disciplinary projects, and fostering partnerships with customers and technology developers. Passionate about advancing scientific discoveries through robust testing infrastructure and translational research.

## Professional Experience

### *Director of Breeding*

NuCicer Inc. / Davis, CA

May 2022 – April 2025

- Directed all aspects of breeding program development, from strategic roadmap creation to large-scale field validation.
- Managed multi-location research, ensuring robust data collection under variable field conditions.
- Oversaw operational logistics, including clients partnerships and testing infrastructure.
- Integrated advanced phenotyping tools and data-driven approaches to accelerate varietal deployment.
- Built and mentored cross-functional teams of scientists, field staff, and technical collaborators.

### *Project Scientist*

UC Davis Genome Center / Davis, CA

Nov 2016 – April 2022

- Led program development for genomic resources and tools, specifically within the context of private-public collaborations for perennial crop improvement.
- Focused research on enhancing key traits in agricultural crops, contributing to global food quality and production.
- Applied advanced genomic techniques to accelerate crop breeding cycles and identify valuable genetic traits.

### *Research Scientist*

UC Davis Plant Sciences Department / Davis, CA

Dec 2010 – Oct 2016

- Led field and controlled-environment experiments focused on crop physiology and stress adaptation.
- Coordinated molecular markers development and deployment for trait architecture characterization.
- Designed and implemented research strategies to identify underlying genetic variation controlling flowering time in spring wheat, contributing to improved crop management.

## Education

### *PhD in Agricultural Sciences, School of Agronomy*

University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Nov 2015

Thesis: Gene identification and validation through functional genomics.

### *BS/MS of Science, Biotechnology*

University of San Martin, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Nov 2010

Master Thesis: Liver Fibrosis at the Gene Therapy Laboratory, Austral University Hospital, Argentina.

## Technical Skills

Strong Molecular Biology background and laboratory experience.

Extensive Class II A2 Biosafety hands-on experience.

Experience with project management platforms (i.e. GoodDay.work and customized solutions).

Experienced in Bash, R, R statistical packages, Data Visualization, Phyton, and LaTex.

## Peer-Reviewed Scientific Publications (Selected)

- Layer-specific genetic variation unlocks secondary metabolite diversity in long-lived clonal peppermint **Kippes N et al. In Press 2025**
- Velvet: a peppermint type mint for oil production **Kippes N et al. CSSA Crop Science 2024**
- Diploid mint (*M. longifolia*) can produce spearmint type oil with a high yield potential. **Kippes N et al. Nature Sci Rep 2021**
- Efficient construction of a linkage map and haplotypes for *Mentha suaveolens* using sequence capture. **Tsai H et al. G3 2021**
- Effect of *phyB* and *phyC* loss-of-function mutations on the wheat transcriptome under short and long day photoperiods. **Kippes N et al. BMC Plant Biol 2020**
- Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms in a regulatory site of *VRN-A1* first intron are associated with differences in vernalization requirement lenght of winter wheat. **Kippes N et al. Mol Genet Genomics 2018**
- RNA-seq studies using wheat *PHYB* and *PHYC* mutants reveal shared and specific functions in the regulation of flowering and shade-avoidance pathways. **Pearce S et al. BMC Plant Biol 2016**
- Identification of the *VERNALIZATION 4* gene reveals the origin of spring growth habit in ancient wheats from South Asia. **Kippes N et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 2015**

## Leadership Competencies

Strategic Planning and Execution / Project Scheduling and Coordination / Stakeholder Relationship Management / Risk Management and Problem Solving / Team Leadership and Mentoring / Cross-Functional Collaboration / Resource Allocation and Budget Management / Effective Communication Across Audiences

## Service and Peer Review

Reviewer Editor, Editorial Board of Plant Genomics, Specialty Section of the journal Frontiers in Genetics (2023 - present).

External Grant Reviewer: FONCYT - Agencia Nacional de Promocion de la Investigacion, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Argentina (2021).

Section Topical Advisory Panel Members for Genetics, Genomics, Breeding, and Biotechnology (G2B2) - Horticulturae [MDPI] (2021 - current).

Reviewer Board - Agriculture [MDPI] (2021 - current).

## Languages

English (Full professional proficiency) and Spanish (Native)