



**Michael Mazourek** is the Calvin Noyes Keeney Associate Professor of Plant Breeding in the Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics. His work focuses on the improvement of peppers, peas and cucurbits (squash, melon, pumpkin, watermelon and cucumber) for growers by increasing yield and production traits, consumers through enhancing flavor and convenience characteristics and the environment through pest and disease resistance that allow reduced pesticide usage. In addition to developing new cultivars with these traits, he trains students in plant genetics and plant breeding and shares these techniques with farmers interested in on-farm participatory breeding. These new seed are created though traditional cross-pollination techniques and aided by new approaches in genomics that allow insight into the underlying science, such as using expression profiling and genomic signatures of selection to identify important genes, the genetic architecture of disease resistance to changing pathogens, and the biosynthesis of nutritional compounds.