

## Peter Apicella Speaker bio

Peter Apicella earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture from the University of Connecticut (UConn) in 2018. After garnering a considerable amount of research experience as an undergraduate student in tissue culture, pomaceous fruit and weed-control science, he was eager to apply his horticultural know-how and research experience in a new arena: Cannabis. After undergraduate school, Peter began his pursuit of a master's degree in Plant Science in the plant molecular biology laboratory of Dr. Gerald Berkowitz. Both hemp and high-THC cannabis have been the focal points of the research that he has been conducting with Dr. Berkowitz. Together, they are evaluating expression of genes in the cannabinoid biosynthetic pathway as well as genes involved in trichome development. Peter's role as a graduate assistant encompasses not only his own thesis research, but also plant propagation management, research coordination between industry groups, and the supervision of undergraduate research projects in the Berkowitz laboratory. He plans to defend his master's thesis and graduate in the Spring of 2020. When he is not pipetting reagents at the bench in the lab, Peter enjoys giving lectures at public forums to help demystify Cannabis's unique history and biology.