



**Dr. Jenita Thinakaran, M. Sc. (Ag.) , PhD**  
Professor  
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### **Academic Background**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Pass out Year</b>
Ph.D.	Texas A&M University	2014
M.Sc. (Ag.)	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	1989
B.Sc. (Ag.)	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	1987
MBA	Indira Gandhi National Open University	2000

### **Research Interests**

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- Post-harvest value addition of Fruits, Vegetables and minor millets
  - Plant- Insect Interactions
  - Nursery management and plant propagation of ornamental foliage
  - Vector biology – Insect vector borne diseases
  - Precision farming
  - Protected cultivation
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## Media Release

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- 2015 Newspaper interview with Ross Courtney: “Protecting the potato crop” Yakima Herald May 18, 2015. [http://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/a-potato-chip-nobody-wants/article\\_26cab836-fd23-11e4-ac83-4baa3753cc81.html](http://www.yakimaherald.com/news/local/a-potato-chip-nobody-wants/article_26cab836-fd23-11e4-ac83-4baa3753cc81.html)
  - 2017 News article in Western Farmer-Stockman “Producers battle potato psyllids, a complex problem. April 2017. <http://www.westernfarmerstockman.com/crops/understanding-tough-potato-pest>.
  - 2017 New article in Potato Grower ‘Pinpointing the sources of potato psyllids arriving in Pacific Northwest potatoes. Dec 2017. [www.potatogrower.com/2017/11/origin-story](http://www.potatogrower.com/2017/11/origin-story)
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## Memberships in Professional Bodies

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- Potato Association of America (PAA)
- Entomological Society of America (ESA)
- Subtropical Plant Science Society (SPSS)

## Most Recent Publications

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- Mustafa T, Horton D, Cooper R, Zack R, **Thinakaran J**, Karasev A. and Munyaneza J. 2021. Stylet probing behavior of two *Bactericera* (Hemiptera: Psylloidea: Triozidae) species on host and nonhost plants. *Environmental Entomology* 50 (4) 919-928. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ee/nvab031>.
- Henne D, and **Thinakaran J**. 2020. Spatially explicit changes in potato psyllid (Hemiptera: Triozidae) populations in three South Texas potato fields. *J. Econ. Entomology* 113 (2): 988-1000. <https://doi.10.1093/jee/toz339>.
- Fu Z, Meier A, Epstein B, Bergland A, Castillo C, Cooper R, Cruzado R, Horton D, Jensen A, Kelly J, Rashed A, Reitz S, Rondon S, **Thinakaran J**, Wenninger E, Wohleb C, Crowder D, and Snyder W. 2019. Host plants and *Wolbachia* shape the population genetics of sympatric herbivore populations. *Evolutionary Applications* 13(10):2740-2753. <https://doi.org/10.1111/eva.13079>
- Cooper W, Horton D, Wildung M, Jensen A, **Thinakaran J**, Rendon D, Nottingham L, Beers E, Wohleb C, Hall D, and Stelinski L. 2019. Host and non-host “whistle stops” for psyllids: Molecular gut content analysis by high-throughput sequencing reveals landscape-level movements of psylloidea (Hemiptera). Accepted for publication in *Environ Entomol.* 48 (3): 554-566.
- Thinakaran J**, Horton D, Rodney C, Jensen A, Wohleb C, Dahan J, Karasev A. and Munyaneza J. 2017. Association of potato psyllid (*Bactericera cockerelli*; Hemiptera: Triozidae) with *Lycium* spp. (Solanaceae) in potato growing regions of Washington, Idaho, and Oregon. *Am. J. Pot. Res.* 94: 490-499. DOI 10.1007/s12230-017-9586-0

## Other Professional Achievement

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1983 National Merit Scholarship - B.S in Agriculture

1987 Aspee Junior Fellowship- M.S in Entomology

2013 First place for poster presentation titled “Host selection by *Bactericera cockerelli*” at the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Subtropical Plant Science Society

2021 Outstanding Agricultural Scientist Award – B. Vasantharaj Foundation