

VITA

Steven Lewis Rideout was born to Charles W. and Nancy C. Rideout on July 16, 1974 in Petersburg, Virginia, United States. He grew up on his family's tobacco and peanut farm and attended Dinwiddie County, Virginia public schools. Steve graduated from Dinwiddie County Senior High School in May 1991 and then enrolled at North Carolina State University in Raleigh to continue his education. Steve received his Bachelor of Science degree in Botany from North Carolina State University in December 1995. While at North Carolina State, Steve worked the summers of 1993-1995 at the Virginia Tech Southern Piedmont AREC under the direction of Dr. Charles S. Johnson. It was here where he became interested in plant pathology and enrolled at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in January 1996. He received his Masters of Science degree in Plant Pathology under the direction of Drs. Charles S. Johnson and Jon D. Eisenback in December 1998. Upon graduation from Virginia Tech, Steve will continue his education, pursuing his Doctor of Philosophy in Plant Pathology at the University of Georgia in Athens under the direction of Dr. Timothy B. Brenneman beginning in January 1999.