

VITA

Amanda Aline Griffitts was born on March 8, 1977 in Radford, Virginia and is the youngest in a family of five children. She grew up in Radford and graduated from Radford High School in 1996. After graduation, she attended Virginia Tech where she received a B.S. degree in Biology, a minor in chemistry, and an option in Biotechnology in 1999. In the fall of that same year, she enrolled in the graduate program in the Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Weed Science Department at Virginia Tech. Amanda completed her Master of Science degree in May 2001 under the direction of Dr. James H. Westwood.