POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT # 00014095
REQUISITION # 494906

Title: Assistant Professor of Molecular Plant Stress Physiology

Location: Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC)
University of Florida
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
Homestead, Florida

Salary: Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience

Review Date: For full consideration, candidates should apply and submit additional materials by December 15, 2015. The position will open until a viable applicant pool is determined.

This is a 12-month position with 70% research (Florida Agricultural Experiment Station) and 30% Extension (Florida Cooperative Extension Service) responsibilities. The incumbent will accrue tenure in the Department of Horticultural Sciences, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), University of Florida and will be located at the Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC) in Homestead, FL.

The incumbent will be a member of an interdisciplinary team of five new faculty members in microbial ecology, hydrology, and landscape ecology at TREC and the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center to be hired to study the impacts and mitigation of climate change and sea level rise on south Florida’s agricultural and natural ecosystems. The incumbent will also collaborate with another team of six new faculty members in plant breeding, genetics and molecular biology focusing on developing new, high value horticultural germplasm adapted to subtropical and tropical conditions. Three of these positions will be located at the TREC, two will be located in the Departments of Horticultural Sciences and Plant Pathology in Gainesville and one will be located at the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center in Apopka.

The incumbent will develop an internationally recognized, extramurally funded research program in molecular stress physiology of subtropical and tropical horticultural crops with primary goals of identifying and understand stress-tolerance traits at the physiological and molecular level and, in collaboration with geneticists and plant breeders, transferring them to...
high-value horticultural genotypes. Ancillary efforts will focus on abiotic stress factors such as flooding and salinity tolerances and the effects of abiotic and biotic stress interactions on crop productivity.

The incumbent will also develop an extension program focused on transferring information about potential effects of climate change and sea level rise on the physiology, growth and productivity of subtropical/tropical horticultural crops and how crop improvement and management could mitigate their impacts. The incumbent will work with state and county faculty by providing information, educational materials, training and workshops to diverse stakeholders. The incumbent will serve on graduate committees, supervise undergraduate and graduate research, and publish research and extension results with students. The incumbent will actively seek contract and grant funding to support their program.

Because of the IFAS land-grant mission, all faculty are expected to be supportive of and engaged in all three mission areas—Research, Teaching and Extension—regardless of the assignment split specified in the position description.

Basic Qualifications
This position requires a Ph.D. (foreign equivalent acceptable) in Plant Biology, Botany, Horticultural Science or a closely-related field. Postdoctoral experience is preferred. The candidate is expected to be well versed in the field of molecular plant physiology, particularly as it relates to stress. Additional expertise in plant biochemistry, plant breeding and genetics is highly desirable. Candidates should have demonstrated skills in verbal and written communication, interpersonal relationships, and procurement of extramural funding. Experience working collaboratively across disciplines is desirable. Candidates must be supportive of the mission of the Land-Grant system. Candidates must also have a commitment to IFAS core values of excellence, diversity, global involvement, and accountability.

Background Information
The Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC; http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/) of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (http://ifas.ufl.edu), University of Florida (www.ufl.edu) is located in Homestead, Florida about 30 miles south of Miami. The Center was established in 1929 by an act of the state legislature in what is now Miami-Dade County. Research, teaching, and extension programs focus on tropical and subtropical fruit crops, tropical and temperate vegetable crops, and ornamental crops of southern Florida. The agricultural industry served by the center has an annual farm gate value of $834 million. Multiplier effects make agriculture's impact on the local economy worth over $1 billion annually. Due to the region's humid subtropical climate, TREC is the only state university research center in the continental United States focusing on a large number of tropical and subtropical crops. Also, the area's oolitic limestone soil is unique to extreme southern Florida. In addition, the center addresses water and environmental issues that impact crop production over a shallow aquifer and in proximity to Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Marine Park, Florida Bay and major well fields which provide drinking water to the several million people in neighboring urban areas. The center's 160 acres consist of offices, laboratories, greenhouses, vegetable fields, and fruit orchards.
The Horticultural Sciences Department ([www.hos.ufl.edu](http://www.hos.ufl.edu)) at the University of Florida has diverse research, teaching, and extension programs located at the Gainesville campus and across the state at research and education centers. Program focus areas within the department include: Plant Physiology and Biochemistry; Plant Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology; Crop Production and Management; Postharvest Biology and Technology; Organic and Sustainable Horticulture; and Weed Science. The Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) has strong programs in Plant Molecular and Cellular Biology ([www.pmcb.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.pmcb.ifas.ufl.edu)) and Plant Breeding and Genetics ([http://ufbreeding.ifas.ufl.edu](http://ufbreeding.ifas.ufl.edu)), as well as expertise in plant biochemistry, molecular genetics, and genomics. Emphasis is placed on the developing cultivars adapted to subtropical climates.

The University of Florida ([http://www.ufl.edu](http://www.ufl.edu)) is a Land-Grant, Sea-Grant, and Space-Grant institution, encompassing virtually all academic and professional disciplines, with an enrollment of more than 50,000 students. UF is a member of The Association of American Universities. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences ([http://ifas.ufl.edu](http://ifas.ufl.edu)) includes the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences ([http://cals.ufl.edu](http://cals.ufl.edu)), the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station ([http://research.ifas.ufl.edu](http://research.ifas.ufl.edu)), the Florida Cooperative Extension Service ([http://extension.ifas.ufl.edu](http://extension.ifas.ufl.edu)), the College of Veterinary Medicine ([http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu](http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu)), the Florida Sea Grant program ([http://www.flseagrant.org/](http://www.flseagrant.org/)), and encompasses 16 on-campus academic departments and schools, 12 Research and Educational Centers (REC) located throughout the state, 6 Research sites/demonstration units administered by RECs or academic departments, and Florida Cooperative Extension Service offices in all 67 counties (counties operate and maintain). The School of Natural Resources and Environment is an interdisciplinary unit housed in IFAS and managed by several colleges on campus. IFAS employs over 2500 people, which includes approximately 900 faculty and 1200 support personnel located in Gainesville and throughout the state. IFAS, one of the nation’s largest agricultural and natural resources research and education organizations, is administered by a Senior Vice President and four deans: the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Dean for Extension and Director of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, the Dean for Research and Director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine. UF/IFAS also engages in cooperative work with Florida A&M University in Tallahassee.

**Employment Conditions**

This position is available April 1, 2016 and will be filled as soon thereafter as an acceptable applicant is available. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

**Nominations and Applications**

Both nominations and applications are welcome. Nominations need to include the complete name and address of the nominee.

Individuals wishing to apply should go to [http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-us/job/494906](http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-us/job/494906) and submit the following materials:

1. Letter of application that states applicant’s interest in the position and qualifications relative to the credentials listed above;

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2. Complete curriculum vitae (which includes statement of current position and responsibilities);
3. Copy of transcripts showing receipt of the doctoral degree;
4. Statement of career goals;
5. Copies of 2-3 representative publications (preferably sent in PDF format):
6. Names and contact information of 4 references.
   References may be contacted throughout the interview process; however, letters will only be requested for those candidates on the short list.

**Contact Information, and Application and Nomination Submission Information**

Please refer to Position # 0001-4095

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Final candidate will be required to provide official transcript to the hiring department upon hire. A transcript will not be considered “official” if a designation of “Issued to Student” is visible. Degrees earned from an education institution outside of the United States are required to be evaluated by a professional credentialing service provider approved by National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), which can be found at [http://www.naces.org/](http://www.naces.org/).

*The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to building a broadly diverse and inclusive faculty and staff. The selection process will be conducted in accord with the provisions of Florida’s ‘Government in the Sunshine’ and Public Records Laws. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation.*