University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)
Department of Crop Sciences
Assistant Professor of Breeding and Genomics of Horticultural Crops

We seek an outstanding scientist who will develop a nationally recognized research and teaching program with emphasis in the field of horticultural plant breeding and genomics. Individuals with strong applied and basic research backgrounds with any commercial crop commodity are encouraged to apply. The research area will be focused on identifying, understanding and improving of economically important traits (e.g. plant and fruit quality, insect and disease resistance, yield, postharvest characteristics, etc.) of horticultural crops. The research will be done through a multidisciplinary integration of advances in biotechnology such as next generation sequencing and precision genomics in concert with conventional plant breeding utilizing marker-assisted and genomic selection. These methods will be used to improve, conserve, and utilize genetic diversity for the improvement of horticultural crops.

Specific research venues could include but are not limited to: the genetic manipulation of product phytochemical composition to enhance the health promoting and nutritional properties of horticultural fruits, nuts, and vegetables; enhancing product flavor and postharvest maintenance of quality; improved biotic and abiotic stress tolerance of food crops designed for production in urban and peri-urban environments; development of horticultural crops that can provide products for medicinal, pharmaceutical, or food supplement markets; the genetic manipulation of crops to focus on horticultural traits relevant to food security in a changing environment; etc.

This area of research makes use of existing strengths of the department in genomics, genetics, plant breeding, bioinformatics, computational biology, statistics, and unparalleled high performance computing facilities and big data storage resources on the Urbana campus. The department has also developed strong collaborations with the widely respected Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition and the interdisciplinary Division of Nutritional Sciences at UIUC.

It is anticipated that the successful candidate will teach an undergraduate course in crop genetics and genomics and design a graduate course in a chosen area of expertise. A Ph.D. in plant genetics, horticulture, or a related discipline, is required. The successful applicant must demonstrate excellent interpersonal and communication skills; demonstrate clear desire to propose, conduct, and report independent and team-based research; and demonstrate the capacity to develop an excellent teaching program.

This is a 9-month, academic, tenure track position with the opportunity for summer appointment. Responsibilities will include research and teaching with salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, which includes a comprehensive benefits package. The position starting date will be in the summer or fall of 2016 after the closing date.
Please create your candidate profile at http://jobs.illinois.edu and upload a cover letter, a detailed statement of research and teaching, curriculum vitae, and names and contact information for three professional references. This position will remain open until a suitable candidate is identified and the position is filled. Individuals from underrepresented populations are encouraged to apply. All applications received by December 1, 2015 will receive full consideration. All requested information must be submitted for your application to be considered. For further information regarding the application procedures, you may contact Linda Kemplin, kemplin@illinois.edu. For additional information you may also contact: Dr. Jack Juvik, Search Committee Chair, Department of Crop Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1201 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, Illinois 61801. Telephone: (217)333-1966, email: juvik@illinois.edu.

More information on the Department of Crop Sciences is available at www.cropsci.illinois.edu

The University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer.

Illinois is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, status as a protected veteran, or status as a qualified individual with a disability. Illinois welcomes individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and ideas who embrace and value diversity and inclusivity. (www.inclusiveillinois.illinois.edu).