Position Description for Horticultural Crop Physiology

The Department of Horticultural Sciences, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University seeks outstanding applicants for one full-time, tenure-track position with a 9-month academic appointment beginning Fall 2024. Applicants will be considered for the faculty title of Assistant Professor in **horticultural crop physiology**, with an emphasis on grapes. The distribution of effort for this position is as follows: research (60%), teaching (30%), outreach, and service (10%) responsibilities.

The successful applicant will be responsible for developing a strong research program in the area of physiology of fruit crops that are relevant to horticulture industries in Texas and beyond. The research program is expected to elucidate resilience mechanisms to overcome extreme climatic conditions and promote the successful production of horticultural crops sustainably under challenging environments. The study approach can include but is not limited to whole plant or grapevine physiology, source/sink relationships, crop load management, training and production systems, rootstock-scion interactions, drought and nutrient stresses, flowering and fruit set, plant growth regulation, modeling physiological aspects of orchard and vineyard system performance, whole plant photosynthetic phenomics, cold and heat tolerance, and climate-smart agriculture.
The position is part of an interdisciplinary cluster hire including two additional positions in Horticulture Crop Breeding and Horticulture Crop Secondary Metabolism. The applicant will work closely with other horticulture crop physiology researchers, production scientists, breeding, genomics, and genetics researchers, and biotechnology scientists within the department and Texas A&M University and Texas A&M AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension faculty both on and off-campus, along with other scientists in the region, nationally, and internationally to establish a highly impactful, extramurally funded research program.

The successful individual will teach the graduate-level Applied Physiology of Horticultural Crops (HORT 604) course and develop additional undergraduate or graduate courses related to phenomics applications in horticulture. The successful candidate will also advise and mentor undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral scientists, and research technicians and participate in outreach and service activities related to the position. The individual will be expected to publish regularly in peer-reviewed journals appropriate to the discipline.

The Department of Horticultural Sciences is a nationally ranked program with a mission focused on sustainability, wellness, and food security to support the economic viability and national and global competitiveness of Texas horticulture, which contributes over $70 Billion per year to the state economy.

The Department houses 19 full-time faculty members and 13 additional faculty located at Research and Extension Centers across Texas. The Department offers two undergraduate degrees; a B.A. and B.S. in Horticulture; certificates in Floral Design, Viticulture and Enology, and Landscape Design, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Horticulture, Plant Breeding, and the Master of Agriculture (non-thesis) in Horticulture. Areas of research, teaching and Extension emphasis in the department include horticulture crop physiology; post-harvest physiology; plant breeding and genetics; horticultural genomics and biotechnology; controlled environment horticulture; viticulture and enology; floral design; vegetable and fruit Production; food science & technology, bioactive compounds; greenhouse and floriculture production & marketing; nursery and floriculture economics;

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international and social horticulture; ornamental horticulture, landscape plant development; plant-associated microorganisms and plant health; sustainable horticulture crop production.

The Department is located in the Horticulture/Forest Science Building (HFSB) in College Station, TX. It boasts the Benz Gallery of Floral Art, modern research and teaching laboratories, and a growth chamber complex. Greenhouses (38,000 sq. ft.) are located behind the HFSB building and at the Horticulture, Teaching, Research, and Extension Center facility (HortTREC) near Snook, TX. Departmental faculty enjoy productive relationships in and with Texas A&M AgriLife Research; the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service; the Norman Borlaug Institute of International Agriculture; the Multi-Crop Transformation facility; Texas AgriLife Genomics and Bioinformatics Services; and the Texas A&M Supercomputing facility.

Distribution of Effort: 60% research, 30% teaching, 10% outreach and service.

Responsibilities:

- Conduct needs and hypothesis-driven research in horticulture crop physiology to optimize production and quality of horticulture crops in Texas.
- Provide leadership and team building with multi-disciplinary Research Scientists and Extension Specialists to address key issues affecting the horticulture crop industry in Texas.
- Develop and/or lead research teams to apply for internal and external research grant opportunities with the involvement of research faculty from Texas A&M University, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension, as well as other research institutions.
- Develop physiological knowledge and practices to enable sustainable and affordable production of nutritious and high-quality fruits for the citizens and industry of Texas.
- Teach one undergraduate and one graduate course in horticulture crop physiology in the Department of Horticultural Sciences.
- Mentor and train the next generation of plant breeders, including students and post-Docs.
- Publish in high-impact, peer-reviewed journals

Salary and Benefits: Salary is competitive and commensurate with background and experience. An attractive fringe benefits package is provided.

Qualifications

Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree in horticulture or a related plant science discipline, along with a strong knowledge and experience in whole-plant physiology and development of fruit crops, evidence of peer-reviewed scholarly accomplishments in the area of plant physiology and excellent verbal and written communication skills are required. Demonstrated success in identifying critical issues, and act on those needs through research activities that resolve problems, and securing external grants and contracts is preferred. Relevant experience in plant physiology of fruit crops, and knowledge of state-of-the-art techniques applicable to horticulture crop physiology research, a minimum of two years of independent or postdoctoral research experience, along with at least one year of teaching experience at the undergraduate or graduate level is preferred.

Application Instructions

Applications will only be accepted online at apply.interfolio.com/135691.
Applicants must upload the following components: (1) a Cover Letter (two-page limit), (2) Curriculum Vitae, (3) a Personal Statement (your statement should include your philosophy and plans for research, teaching and service, as applicable, and (4) Names and Contact Information of five (5) professional references.

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To be given full consideration, please submit applications by January 22, 2024. The position will remain open until a suitable candidate is identified. The anticipated start date is August 1, 2024.

Questions: Address inquiries to Search Committee Co-Chairs: Hisashi Koiwa, Ph.D. - Phone: (979) 845-5282 Email: Hisashi.Koiwa@ag.tamu.edu and Justin Scheiner, Ph.D. Phone: (979) 845.1870 Email: Justin.Scheiner@ag.tamu.edu

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