Title: Assistant Professor of Genetics – Tropical Fruit Crops

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

Salary: Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience

Duties and Responsibilities
This is a 9-month tenure-accruing faculty position, 80% research (Florida Agricultural Experiment Station) and 20% Extension (Florida Cooperative Extension Service), available in the Department of Horticultural Sciences, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), University of Florida; located at the Tropical Research and Education Center in Homestead, FL. The candidate will develop an internationally recognized, extramurally funded research program emphasizing subtropical and tropical fruit crops (minor effort may include some tropical fruit crops also used for ornamental purposes). The incumbent's goal is to develop tropical fruit crops with superior pest resistance (tolerance), abiotic stress tolerance and desirable fruit quality that results in cultivars for commercial production. The incumbent is expected to collaborate with horticulturists, entomologists, plant pathologists, geneticists, agricultural economists and plant breeders, to develop horticulturally desirable end products for the consumers.

The incumbent will develop an extension program focused on transferring information and new cultivars to current and potential commercial producers. The candidate will be expected to produce extension publications, apply for grants with an extension component, and develop in-service trainings for UF extension faculty. The faculty member will work with state and county faculty by providing information, educational materials, training and workshops to all levels of clientele. The candidate will be expected to serve on graduate committees, to supervise undergraduate and graduate research, and to publish the results with students. The faculty member will seek contract and grant funding actively to support his/her program. All IFAS faculty are expected to support all three functions (Research, Extension, and Teaching) of the Land Grant mission.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Basic Qualifications
This position requires a Ph.D. in Genetics, Plant Breeding, Plant Biology, Horticultural Science or a closely-related field. Postdoctoral experience is preferred. The candidate is expected to be knowledgeable of molecular and traditional plant breeding techniques. Candidates should have demonstrated skills in verbal and written communication, interpersonal relationships, and procurement of extramural funding. 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, ornamental crops, and natural resources 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. TREC is the only state university research center in the continental United States focusing on a large number of tropical and subtropical crops. The area is characterized by a marine humid subtropical climate and unique oolitic limestone based soil. 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) 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) and Plant Breeding and Genetics (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 is a Land-Grant and Sea-Grant institution, encompassing virtually all academic and professional disciplines, with an enrollment of more than 48,000 students. UF is a member of The Association of American Universities. IFAS includes the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (http://cals.ufl.edu), the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station (http://research.ifas.ufl.edu), the Florida Cooperative Extension Service (http://extension.ifas.ufl.edu), the College of Veterinary Medicine (http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu), and encompasses 15 academic departments and the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, 9 interdisciplinary centers, 13 research and educational centers throughout the state, and Cooperative Extension units in each of Florida's 67 counties and the Seminole Tribe. The School of Natural Resources and Environment is an interdisciplinary unit housed in IFAS and managed by several colleges on campus. IFAS employs over 3,400 people, which includes approximately 950 faculty and 2,450 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 January 2024 and will be filled as soon thereafter as an acceptable applicant is available. Compensation is commensurate with the education, experience, and qualifications of the selected applicant.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
A doctorate (foreign equivalent acceptable) in Genetics, Plant Breeding, Plant Biology, Horticultural Science or a closely related discipline is required. The candidate is expected to be knowledgeable of molecular and traditional plant breeding techniques. Candidates should have demonstrated skills in verbal and written communication, interpersonal relationships, and procurement of extramural funding. 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.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:
Postdoctoral experience is preferred.

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 submit the following materials:

1. Letter of application that states applicant's interest in the position and qualifications relative to the credentials listed above;
2. Complete curriculum vitae (which includes statement of current position and responsibilities);
3. Copy of unofficial transcripts (official transcripts showing receipt of the doctoral degree will be requested at other stages of the interview process);
4. Research and Extension Statements;
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. Review of application materials will begin on or before April 2023 and will continue until a suitable applicant is identified.

Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Contact Information, and Application and Nomination Submission Information

Please refer to Requisition # 526073

Dr. Daniel Carrillo
Chair, Search and Screen Committee
University of Florida
Tropical Research and Education Center
18905 SW 280th Street
Homestead, FL 33031

Telephone: 786-217-9245
Facsimile: 305-246-7003
Electronic Mail: dancar@ufl.edu

The University of Florida is an equal opportunity and equal access employer. The "government in the sunshine" laws of Florida require that all documents relating to the search process, including letters of application, nomination, and reference, except transcripts, be available for public inspection. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation.