POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT # 0001-4728
REQUISITION # 506340

Title: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF AGRONOMY
AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

Location: AGRONOMY DEPARTMENT
INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (IFAS)
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

Salary: COMMENSURATE WITH QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Position Open To: For full consideration, candidates should apply and submit supporting materials by 15 April 2018. The position will remain open until a viable applicant pool is determined.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

This is a 12-month tenure-accruing position, appointed as 60% research (Florida Agricultural Experiment Station) and 40% extension (Florida Cooperative Extension Service), available in the Agronomy Department, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, at the University of Florida. The assignment may change in accordance with the needs of the unit. The position will be located at the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants (CAIP) in Gainesville, FL with access to extensive laboratory and field facilities. Tenure will accrue in the Agronomy Department.

The research component of this position (60%) will focus on relevant independent research on invasive plant management in aquatic habitats and cooperative research with other faculty working on invasive plant management. Research will be, predominantly, of an applied nature aimed at solving practical invasive plant problems faced by aquatic resource managers. The focus will be on developing management options – including herbicide recommendations and application techniques – that can be integrated into invasive plant management programs. In addition to applied research, more
fundamental studies on the biology, physiology, or ecology of invasive plants should be pursued. The incumbent is expected to obtain extramural funding, direct graduate student research, and publish research findings in the scientific literature.

The extension component of this position (40%) includes development of methods for the integrated management of invasive plants in aquatic habitats. The incumbent will also be responsible for disseminating this information through various formats and venues while also training county extension faculty, state and federal agency personnel, commercial herbicide applicators, and individuals in the private sector who have an interest in the control of aquatic invasive plants. The incumbent must liaise with federal, state, county and municipal land management programs such as the Army Corps of Engineers, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida’s five Water Management Districts, and Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAS). Of particular importance will be the recognition of agency needs for information and training and providing assistance as necessary. The training component will include assisting with short courses, workshops, and writing EDIS publications (extension bulletins), newsletters, and information sheets as necessary. The incumbent has the opportunity to cooperate with educational programs developed by the CAIP Information Office (http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu) and with established programs in other departments. This position requires close coordination of research and extension programs with faculty in several other disciplines including Fisheries, Forestry, Entomology and Horticulture as well as with research/extension staff at Research and Education Centers throughout the state.

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.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Doctor of Philosophy degree (foreign equivalent acceptable) with emphasis in weed science, natural resource management, or closely related plant science discipline with knowledge of aquatic invasive plant management. Candidates must possess the ability to communicate, organize, and motivate people and promote learning as well as being able to establish good relationships among diverse groups.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS: Prior experience in aquatic invasive plant management, plant identification, and plant ecology is highly desirable. Post-doctoral experience is desired but not necessary.

OTHER INFORMATION: The Agronomy Department (http://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/) of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) has faculty working in all aspects of the discipline including invasive plant management, plant biology, physiology and ecology. The Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants (CAIP) maintains close relationships with all faculty working on invasive plants including those in Entomology and Nematology (biological control), Horticulural Sciences, Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, and Forestry which provide extensive opportunities for multi-disciplinary projects.
Florida state agencies, water management districts, counties and other public entities spend over $50 million annually for control of invasive plants in Florida and rely heavily on IFAS faculty and staff for development of control methods and educational opportunities.

The University of Florida (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 53,000 students. UF is a member of The Association of American Universities. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (http://ifas.ufl.edu) 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), the Florida Sea Grant program (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.

**Nominations**

Nominations are welcome. Nominations need to include the complete name and address of the nominee. This information should be sent to the address below.

**How to Apply:**

- Individuals wishing to apply should go online to [http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-us/job/506340](http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-us/job/506340) and submit:
  - Application
  - Cover letter that states applicant’s interest in the position and qualifications relative to the credentials listed above
  - Curriculum vitae
  - Transcripts (official or unofficial) showing receipt of the doctoral degree
  - Three letters of recommendation should be sent to the below address: (email is preferred)

Please refer to Requisition # 506340
Jason Ferrell
Chair, Search and Screen Committee
Final candidate will be required to provide an 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/.

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.