Position # 0001-6488  
Requisition # 498235

Florida-Friendly Landscaping Extension Agent I or II  
University of Florida/IFAS Extension at Martin County  
Stuart, FL (South Extension District)

Closing date: August 17, 2016

**Position Summary**  
University of Florida/IFAS Extension and Martin County seek to fill a 12-month, permanent status accruing Florida Friendly Landscape (FFL) Agent position. The successful candidate will develop, promote, implement, teach, evaluate, and report on urban horticulture educational programs designed to assist homeowners in maintaining their landscapes in a resource-efficient and environmentally sensitive manner. This task will be partly accomplished through the use of volunteers. The agent will be expected to teach the most effective strategies to adopt Florida-Friendly Landscape (FFL) principles to protect water quality, water conservation, and other related topics. All county faculty are expected to explore opportunities to supplement state and county fiscal support for extension programming.

The agent must develop effective working relationships with homeowners, volunteers, advisory committee members, community leaders, media, related state and local agencies, and the general public. The successful candidate will be innovative, creative, and willing to adapt to a dynamic work environment. The agent will be expected to work with other county extension faculty in the South Extension District, other horticulture agents, extension specialists, and researchers located at the Indian River Research and Education Center and the USDA Horticultural Research Laboratory in Ft. Pierce, other centers in central and south Florida, and the main University of Florida campus in Gainesville. All extension agents also devote at least 5% of their extension programming to UF/IFAS 4-H Youth Development. The agent will also assume other responsibilities as assigned by the Martin County Extension Director and the South District Extension Director in support of the total cooperative extension effort in Martin County.

**Specific Focus**
- Provide training for new Master Gardener volunteers and continuing education for experienced Master Gardeners.
- Teach water conservation and efficient irrigation practices, proper fertilizer application and responsible use, FFL horticultural Best Management Practices for water resource protection, and pest management (including insect, mite, disease and weed management).
- Market the extension program through multi-media platforms.
• Develop, conduct, coordinate, evaluate, and report on educational programs for urban audiences.
• Maintain and participate in an advisory committee to solicit input for program priorities and objectives meeting the needs of designated clientele.
• Develop local expertise in the horticulture education program.
• Develop community partnerships.
• Assist with 4-H/Youth Development horticulture education programs.

**Qualifications**
This position requires a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university in plant science, horticultural science, entomology, plant pathology, or a closely related field. A master's degree is preferred. If hired with a bachelor’s degree only, at least 50% progress towards obtaining a master’s degree is expected within 6 years of employment. Experience recruiting, training, and supervising volunteers is preferred.

Candidates must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, including the ability to deliver public presentations, to produce publications and other materials used in extension programming, and to work effectively with diverse groups. Experience working in multicultural settings and coursework/training on multicultural topics are also desirable. Knowledge of and experience with technologies that could be used to support and deliver educational programs is desirable. Candidates must be supportive of the mission of the land-grant system. Candidates must also have a commitment to UF/IFAS core values of excellence, diversity, global involvement, and accountability. The agent is expected to attain promotion and permanent status per state faculty guidelines.

The agent must be willing to work irregular hours, evenings and weekends. Occasional overnight travel is required, as well as travel with personal transportation. Upon employment, the successful candidate must be able to obtain and maintain a valid Florida driver’s license.

**Other information**
Martin County, a community of 148,817 residents, is closely tied to both the physical and social aspects of its environment. In terms of the physical environment, water quality and supply are of key importance, as they affect the community’s leisure opportunities, economy, and health. Martin County’s rural and urban landscapes are part of the St. Lucie-Loxahatchee River watershed contributing to water quality and supply within the rivers and estuaries. The Indian River Lagoon system contains the most diverse estuarine ecology in North America. It straddles the transition zone between cooler temperate and warmer sub-tropical ranges providing habitat for both tropical and temperature species to coexist and thrive. This system exists in a delicate ecological balance, and is sensitive to population increases, land use changes, and altered drainage patterns. Residential development along the lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean includes some of the most expensive real estate in the state, and coastal properties rely on a healthy, picturesque seascape for sustained property values, which in turn serve as an essential tax revenue base for countywide operations.
FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: Extension is a partnership between state, federal, and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public. As such, all partners are involved in the supervision of the office and contribute to the salary and support resources. The primary goal of Extension is to disseminate the latest knowledge and applicable technologies in agriculture, human and natural resources, and the life sciences in order to sustain and enhance the quality of human life. The UF/IFAS mission is accomplished through extension faculty members, scientists, educators, administrative staff, and volunteers working cohesively throughout Florida’s 67 counties.

Candidates will be reviewed as applications are received, but please be aware that interviews might not be scheduled until 4 to 6 weeks after the position closing date.

Application Instructions

Apply through the online UF application system at http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-us/job/498235, and attach your Resume or CV, as well as a cover letter that describes how your experience and qualifications have prepared you for this position.

TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION, PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

You must submit unofficial copies of all transcripts and/or coursework of your academic degrees. You may attach these as an "other" document, or you may submit to our office as directed below. An unofficial copy is acceptable for the application process, but before you can be hired, IFAS Human Resources must have the official transcript for your highest degree on file.

Also, all applicants must have at least three reference rating forms on file. Reference forms must be less than one year old. If you have not already done so, please contact your professional/academic references and ask that they complete a reference rating form on your behalf. The form is located at http://personnel.ifas.ufl.edu/ref_form.pdf.

Please also complete and submit the Previous Employment Form (located at http://personnel.ifas.ufl.edu/prev_employment.pdf).

With the exception of official transcripts, all items submitted by mail must be postmarked no later than the next business day after the position closing date. All documents submitted by fax or email must be received no later than the next business day. If your official transcripts will arrive after the closing date, you must also submit unofficial transcripts by the deadline.

Requested reference forms and transcripts should be submitted to:

Ms. Dana LeCuyer
UF IFAS Human Resources
Faculty Recruitment and Hiring
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/.

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.