Graduate student research assistantship: Soil microbial ecology of cover crops in citrus at the University of Florida

An exciting opportunity is available for a Ph.D. student position in the Soil and Water Sciences Department to characterize and examine the influence of cover crops and soil amendments on soil and root health in citrus. Research on this project is part of a federally funded joint project between the Soil Microbiology Lab and the Plant Physiology Lab at the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center (SWFREC) in Immokalee, FL and University of California-Riverside.

Research will focus on determining the impact of cover crops and soil amendments on the microbial community structure and function, as well as the microbial interaction with nutrient cycling, in field trials in Florida. Interactions between cover crop and soil amendment treatments, the microbial community, citrus rootstocks, and herbicide treatments may also be examined.

Qualifications: A Master’s degree in microbiology, soil science, plant biology, or a related discipline from an accredited institution, plus research experience, is preferred. Candidates with experience in microbial ecology, amplicon sequencing, and/or bioinformatics, and some experience in publishing results in peer-reviewed journals, are also preferred. The student is expected to work in the laboratory as well as in the greenhouse and field with periods of work under hot and humid conditions.

The graduate assistantship position is fully supported for 4 years and includes full tuition coverage, 12-month stipend, and health insurance. This position is based at the UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee, FL, located in the heart of Florida citrus production short drive from the beautiful beaches of Fort Myers and Naples, FL. Visit the Department (http://soils.ifas.ufl.edu) and SWFREC (swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu) webpages for additional information. The position beings in August 2021. Interested candidates should contact Dr. Sarah Strauss (strauss@ufl.edu) directly with a CV, one-paragraph letter of research experience and interests, and the names of three references. Review of applicants will begin on March 22, 2021 and continue until a qualified candidate is found.