

PhD Position: Cover crops and soil amendments in citrus at the University of Florida

A Ph.D. Research position is available in the Soil and Water Sciences Department for the exciting opportunity 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 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.

The candidate is expected to work in the laboratory as well as in the greenhouse and field with periods of work under hot and humid conditions. A Master's degree in soil science, microbiology, plant biology, or a related discipline from an accredited institution, experience in microbial ecology, next-generation sequencing, and/or bioinformatics, and some experience in publishing results in peer-reviewed journals, is preferred.

The Assistantship includes full tuition coverage, 12-month stipend, and health insurance over a 4-year period. 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. Visit the Department (<http://soils.ifas.ufl.edu>) and SWFREC (swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu) webpages for additional information. Complete application packets are due Jan. 4, 2021. Details regarding application can be found at <http://soils.ifas.ufl.edu/academics/graduate-studies/>. However, interested candidates are encouraged to 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.