



# UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences  
Department of Horticulture

## Assistant/Associate Professor: Integrative Precision Agriculture Specialist for Horticultural Crops JOB DESCRIPTION

**Position Summary:** The University of Georgia's Department of Horticulture ([www.hort.uga.edu](http://www.hort.uga.edu)) is seeking applicants for an Assistant/Associate Professor of Horticulture with responsibilities in precision agriculture for fruits and vegetables production. The position is a nine-month appointment with a guarantee of two months summer salary, with an 80% Extension and 20% Research appointment. The position will be located at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus, Tifton, Georgia.

The successful candidate will be expected to: 1) develop a local, state, regionally and/or nationally recognized extension and research programs that will use applied research to address high priority problems/issues in Precision Agriculture related to the production of horticultural crops; 2) provide training, resource materials and technical assistance to County Extension Agents; 3) procure extramural funding, publish research findings, and regularly participate in other scholarly and departmental activities; 4) establish an active and sustained research program that includes supervision of graduate students; 5) interact effectively with growers, industry leaders, and other organizations as appropriate; 6) work with the existing UGA Precision Agriculture Team and other faculty within CAES, the College of Engineering and related disciplines to provide leadership in precision agriculture solutions to production of specialty crops in the southeastern U.S.

Frequent automobile travel to a variety of sites, including many rural locations, is expected of this position.

**Major Responsibilities:** The successful candidate is expected to develop a strong, externally funded Extension and research program in one or more of the following areas:

- Development of field experiments for evaluation and application of different precision agriculture technologies for the production of horticultural crops.
- Development and evaluation of sensors, control systems, and various digital agriculture tools for producers, such as mobile or web-based applications, for field production, profitability, and efficiency.
- Development and evaluation of specialized machinery and equipment used for planting, spraying, fertilization, and harvest.
- Utilization of GPS-based guidance systems, sensors, and other technologies for precision application of inputs (seed, fertilizer, water and chemical)
- Implementation of precision agriculture technologies such as soil mapping, irrigation monitoring and scheduling, yield monitoring/mapping and other remote sensing techniques for site-specific applications.
- Application and utilization of machine learning, artificial intelligence, and robotics for advanced applications such as pest detection, nutrient/water monitoring, yield estimation, and crop quality assessment.
- High throughput phenotyping to assist existing breeding programs in the Department.

**Relevant/Preferred Education, Experience, Licensure, and/or Certification:**

- A Ph.D. in in mechanical / biological / agricultural / biosystems engineering, agronomy, crop and soil sciences, horticulture, entomology, plant pathology, or related field with documented expertise in precision agriculture as it relates to the candidate's area of knowledge.
- To be considered for the rank of Associate Professor, candidates must have at least 5 full years in rank at the Assistant Professor level. To be eligible for tenure upon appointment, candidates must be appointed as an Associate Professor, have been tenured at a prior institution, and bring a demonstrably regional and/or national reputation to the institution. Candidates must be approved for tenure upon appointment before hire. The criteria for promotion and tenure in the Department of Horticulture are summarized at [https://provost.uga.edu/resources/documents/Horticulture\\_2015.pdf](https://provost.uga.edu/resources/documents/Horticulture_2015.pdf)

**Preferred Knowledge, Skills, Abilities, and/or Competencies:**

- Excellent demonstrated verbal and written communication skills.
- A demonstrated commitment to high-quality research and extension.
- Candidates must be supportive of the mission of the Land Grant system
- Candidates must also have a commitment to the University, College and Department's core values of excellence, diversity, global involvement, and accountability.

**Application procedures:** Inquiries about the position and nominations should be directed to Dr. Lenny Wells, Professor, Chair of the Search Committee, [lwells@uga.edu](mailto:lwells@uga.edu)). All application materials must be submitted via the university's job portal at <https://www.ugajobsearch.com/hr/postings/265011>. Materials to be uploaded include i) cover letter addressing the candidate's experience relative to the responsibilities of the position, ii) curriculum vitae, iii) graduate-level academic transcripts, iv) statement of research interests, v) statement of Extension interests, and vi) names and contact information of four professional references. Selected applicants will be required to submit to a background investigation demonstrating eligibility for employment with the University of Georgia.

**Position available:** November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Applications received by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, are assured full consideration; however, applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

**Employment Conditions:** This position will be filled as soon as an acceptable applicant is available. Compensation is commensurate with the education, experience, and qualifications of the selected applicant.

**About us:** The University of Georgia (UGA), a land-grant and sea-grant university with statewide commitments and responsibilities is the state's oldest, most comprehensive, and most diversified institution of higher education (<http://www.uga.edu>). UGA is currently ranked among the top 20 public universities in U.S. News & World Report. The UGA-Tifton campus is located within a 3-hour drive from 4 flagship college campuses and is home to 105 scientists and more than 200 support staff. On-campus resources include office, laboratory, greenhouses, irrigated research orchard, and agricultural machinery.