



University of Florida
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
Entomology & Nematology Department

PO Box 110620
Gainesville, FL 32611
352-273-3976

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Title: Research Technician

Project: Developing insect pest management protocols for biodiversity-certified plant production

Description: There is currently a boom in the pollinator and wildlife-friendly horticulture market. Effective insect pest management is critical to produce saleable plant material. Although plant production practices have shifted towards pest control tactics that are more compatible with pollinators and beneficial insects, many commonly used insecticides remain toxic to beneficial insects and can even pose risks after retail purchase. Despite pollinator-friendly or wildlife-friendly plants being widely available, plant nursery production methods can negate their conservation value. This project will develop protocols for reducing pests while minimizing negative non-target effects on insects of conservation interest.

This individual will work with an interdisciplinary team of scientists at the University of Florida to develop pest management protocols for wildlife-friendly plants that control key pests without compromising the conservation value and wildlife services the plants provide. The individual will directly oversee experimental setup, execution, and completion, which includes plant maintenance, insect rearing, pesticide applications, and data collection in greenhouse and nursery settings. This individual will also oversee a small team of undergraduate researchers who will help with plant maintenance, experiments, and data collection.

Qualifications:

Required: B.S. in entomology, horticulture, or a related discipline. Experience working independently. Previous experience with plants in nursery or greenhouse settings, working with pesticides, and working with insects. Must have a Florida pesticide license or being willing to obtain one within a month after the start date.

Preferred: M.S. in entomology, horticulture, or a related discipline. Experience with scientific and technical writing; data entry, visualization, and analysis; working with a team.

Location: Gainesville, FL

Salary: \$20/hour, full time 40 hr/week, one year guaranteed with potential for extension.

Start date: January 4, 2021

The [Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences](#) is committed to creating an environment that affirms diversity across a variety of dimensions, including ability, class, ethnicity/race, gender identity and expression. We particularly welcome applicants who can contribute to such an environment. If an accommodation due to a disability is needed to apply for this position, please call 352-392-2477 or the Florida Relay System at 800-955-8771 (TDD) or visit [Accessibility at UF](#).

If interested and qualified, please send a resume and cover letter to Dr. Adam Dale.

Adam Dale

352-273-3976

agdale@ufl.edu

<https://dalelab.org>