

## GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

**POSITION:** MS or PhD graduate research assistantship in the area of sustainable nursery irrigation.

**LOCATION:** Plant Sciences Department, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Screening of applicants will begin June 1, 2021 and continue until the position is filled.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** The student will work with his or her major professor to develop a comprehensive research project on an aspect of sustainable nursery irrigation. The student will be responsible for designing and executing experiments, analyzing data and interpreting results, and is expected to prepare manuscripts for publication in a peer-refereed journal. The student will occasionally assist with extension programming, examples of which include preparing factsheet and oral presentations for Extension Agent and Green Industry audiences. Responsibilities include



implementation and management of experimental field, greenhouse, and/or laboratory research. Physical activity including some lifting and working in extreme temperature environments may be required. The successful candidate must be willing to travel across the state and nationally to present research findings to professional societies and extension groups.

**STIPEND & QUALIFICATIONS:** A GRA provides a monthly stipend, with both in- and out-of-state tuition costs waived. A student health insurance plan is included. Preference will be given to applicants with a B.S. or M.S. degree in Horticulture, Plant Science, Agronomy, Botany, Ecology or other related discipline. The successful candidate should have a strong academic record, be highly motivated, and able to work independently. Demonstrated writing achievement such as publishing graduate or undergraduate thesis research or other evidence of strong writing skills is highly desirable. Strong oral communication skills along with the ability to work with others in a team-oriented environment are essential. Training or experience with nursery production, instrumentation and data logger programming, or plant physiology research is highly desirable. Admission both to the University of Tennessee graduate school and the Plant Sciences graduate program are required. Other requirements for admission to the University of Tennessee graduate school may be obtained at (<https://gradschool.utk.edu/admissions/>).



**ENVIRONMENT:** The Plant Sciences Department is located on the Agricultural Campus of UT adjacent to the main campus in Knoxville, TN. The department is housed in the Plant Biotechnology Building and has access to the most modern equipment to support a range of plant science research (cytometer, sequencer, HPLC, GC, RT-PCR, etc) through the [Omics Hub](#). Whole plant physiology instrumentation (infrared gas analyzer, pressure chamber, etc) is available through Dr. Fulcher's program. Campus greenhouse, field

facilities, and a commercial nursery are instrumented in support of replicated nursery irrigation research. Knoxville lies just 40 miles from [The Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#). There are many opportunities for cycling, hiking, camping, canoeing, and fishing. [Market Square](#), [Gay Street](#) and [Old City](#) offer an abundance of dining, entertainment, and residential options downtown, and along with a new riverfront redevelopment, allow for urban pursuits and residential opportunities close to campus.

**RESPOND BY:** Sending a cover letter describing research interests and experience, resume or CV, and the names and contact information of three references to:

Dr. Amy Fulcher  
Plant Sciences Department  
112 Plant Biotechnology Building  
2505 E. J. Chapman Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37996  
[afulcher@utk.edu](mailto:afulcher@utk.edu)

**UT Graduate & International Admissions Web Page:**

<https://gradschool.utk.edu/admissions/>

**Departmental Web Page:**

<http://plantsciences.utk.edu/>

**Plant Sciences Graduate Program Web Page:**

<https://plantsciences.tennessee.edu/graduate/>

All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status. Eligibility and other terms and conditions of employment benefits at the University of Tennessee are governed by laws and regulations of the State of Tennessee, and this non-discrimination statement is intended to be consistent with those laws and regulations. In accordance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, The University of Tennessee affirmatively states that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities, and this policy extends to employment by the University. Inquiries and charges of violation of Title VI (race, color, national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), ADA (disability), Age Discrimination in Employment Act (age), sexual orientation, or veteran status should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 1840 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996-3560, telephone (865) 974-2498 (V/TTY available) or 974-2440. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the Office of Equity and Diversity.