



Department of Agronomy
Position Announcement

Title: Turfgrass Extension Specialist
Rank: Assistant/Associate Professor
(Academic year, tenure track appointment with 10 weeks of recurring summer session funds as long as extension responsibilities remain primary.)
Available: July 1, 2010
Location: Department of Agronomy, Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana USA

Position description: The position is a tenure-track faculty appointment focusing on turfgrass Extension education for the turfgrass industry with additional responsibilities in applied research and undergraduate education for the Turf Science degree option. The successful applicant will join a multi-departmental team dedicated to maintaining a strong Turf Science program at Purdue University.

Responsibilities: This individual will develop an internationally recognized Extension/research program, attract extramural funding to support the program and demonstrate scholarly accomplishment. The primary responsibilities of this position are in the areas of turfgrass management Extension and applied research. The successful individual will provide leadership for a multidisciplinary and financially sustainable Extension program focused on the regional turfgrass industry. This person will develop and disseminate educational information using appropriate technologies for a range of stakeholders including: golf course and athletic turf managers, lawn care professionals, sod growers and county Extension field staff. Additionally, this person will organize continuing education events for industry professionals such as the Indiana Green Expo, turfgrass field day, short-courses, seminars and webinars. The selected individual will be expected to develop a complementary and innovative applied research program that addresses relevant issues affecting both cool and warm-season turfgrass species used in recreational and urban/residential environments. This person will assume a leadership position in the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, which actively supports turfgrass research and Turf Science educational efforts at Purdue University. Undergraduate education responsibilities include teaching one intermediate/advanced course on turf science annually and advising and counseling students. Graduate student supervision and professional collaboration with other Purdue University faculty and staff is expected.

Qualifications: A Ph.D. degree in Crop Science, Agronomy, Horticulture, Plant Ecology or related disciplines with a demonstrated interest in turfgrass production systems. The candidate must possess excellent oral and written communication skills and demonstrated collaborative Extension and research skills. Post-doctoral, classroom teaching and international experiences are desirable. Prior applied turfgrass management experience is highly desirable and familiarity with contemporary educational and electronic information delivery technologies is essential.

Salary: Commensurate with qualifications and experience. An excellent fringe benefit package includes generous employer contributions to the TIAA-CREF retirement program; medical, life and disability insurance; and sabbatical leave opportunities.

Application Procedure: Screening of applicants will begin December 1, 2009, and will continue until a suitable candidate is hired. Qualified individuals should submit a letter of application including transcripts of all University degrees, a curriculum vita (including lists of Extension and research publications plus a summary of Extension activities to date), a statement of philosophy in Extension education, a statement of research goals, and contact information for four references (names, addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers). Send this information to:

Dr. Herb Ohm Interim-Head (c/o Sandy Spitznagle)
Department of Agronomy, Purdue University, 915 West State St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2054

For more information about the position, contact Dr. Cale Bigelow (765-494-4692, cbigelow@purdue.edu) or Dr. Herb Ohm: Interim Head-Agronomy (765-494-4774, hohm@purdue.edu). For more information about Purdue Agronomy and the Turf Science Program, visit our Web site at <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/turf>.