

Assistant Professor Botany & Plant Pathology, Plant-Nematode Interactions

Job Summary

The Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Purdue University is seeking applications for an Assistant Professor, Plant–Nematode Interactions. This is a 9-month appointment, tenure track (70% research, 30% teaching) with split appointments in the Departments of Botany and Plant Pathology (75%) and Entomology (25%), both in the College of Agriculture. The successful candidate is expected to develop an innovative, internationally recognized, and externally funded research program on the molecular biology, genomics and genetics of plant–nematode interactions to enhance understanding of plant-parasitic nematodes and host–parasite interactions. Emphasis could include but is not limited to genomics of nematode resistance, nematode virulence, plant–nematode interactions at the molecular, cellular, organismal, or population levels. In addition, research in soil and root microbiomes that contribute to suppression of nematodes and a better understanding of interaction between nematodes, microbiome, and other plant pests and pathogens could be important for this position. Recent reports of soybean nematode resistance genes being overcome by new nematode biotypes highlight the urgency of research on genetic resistance to soybean cyst nematode (SCN) to identify and deploy new sources of resistance. Thus, the appointee is expected to conduct strong basic research but also translate findings for the improvement of crop health and yield. The successful candidate will teach undergraduate and/or graduate-level plant pathology courses, mentor graduate students, and participate in the academic programs of both departments, as well as serve on departmental, college and university committees.

The Department

The Department of Botany and Plant Pathology has a diverse and creative faculty that conducts research in plant pathology, plant biology, and weed science. The department is part of a dynamic research community of plant scientists in the College of Agriculture and across the university. The department is located in Lilly Hall with research labs, greenhouse space, and plant growth facilities.

The College

The Department is an integral part of the College of Agriculture, one of the world's leading colleges of agricultural, food, life, and natural resource sciences and ranked sixth in the US in the 2019 QS World University Rankings. The College is deeply committed to the three land-grant missions (teaching, research, and extension), to international activities and perspectives that span all missions, and to excellence in all we do. The College has 11 academic departments and includes 313 faculty, 2803 undergraduate students, and 672 graduate students. The College's strategic plan can be accessed at <https://ag.purdue.edu/plan/Pages/default.aspx>.

Qualifications

Qualified candidates must have a Ph.D. in plant pathology, nematology, plant genetics or a closely-related field. Post-doctoral experience in nematode–plant interactions is desirable. Experience in the molecular genetics and genomics of host–parasite interaction are preferred. Postdoctoral experience is strongly preferred. Excellent written and oral communication skills are essential and candidates should be able to demonstrate good teaching skills.

Application Instructions

Interested applicants must submit an application packet that outlines their research interests, a statement of their teaching philosophy, professional goals, a complete curriculum vitae that includes a summary of academic and other professional experiences, and the names and contact information for four references. All materials must be combined into one pdf and submitted electronically via this site – <https://careers.purdue.edu/go/West-Lafayette-Faculty/7721600/>. Review of applications will begin on November 15, 2019 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified. Address questions to Tesfaye Mengiste (mengiste@purdue.edu). A background check will be required for employment in this position.

Purdue University's Department of Botany and Plant Pathology is committed to advancing diversity in all areas of faculty effort, including discovery, instruction, and engagement. Candidates should address at least one of these areas in their cover letter, indicating their experiences, current interests or activities, and/or future goals to promote a climate that values diversity and inclusion. Purdue is an ADVANCE institution – <https://www.purdue.edu/advance-purdue/>.