

**UF/IFAS**

West Florida Research and Education Center

4253 Experiment Rd., Highway 182

Jay, FL 32565

(850) 983-7104

Fax: (850) 995-3723

[Miltongators.com](http://Miltongators.com)

**M.S. Graduate Research Assistantship: Weed Science**

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences  
University of Florida

**Position Summary:**

A M.S. level Graduate Research Assistantship is available to conduct research on weed management within *Brassica carinata* cropping systems and rotations with cotton and peanut in the Florida panhandle. The research will be conducted at the UF/IFAS [West Florida Research and Education Center](#) (WFREC) located north of Pensacola, Florida.

The WFREC research unit consists of 640 acres and is located about 12 miles north of Milton near Jay, FL (Lat 30.776657°, Long -87.141633°), where research is conducted on cropping systems, weed science, golf and sports turf management, landscape and nursery management, forestry, and wildlife ecology. Graduate student housing facilities, suitable for temporary housing, are conveniently available on the research station, though the student is expected to find housing locally. Most coursework is available online or through an additional concentration program, such as the [M.S. Agroecology Concentration](#).

Carinata is a non-food oilseed crop used to manufacture jet biofuel. USDA NIFA awarded [\\$15 million](#) to develop the crop as a renewable source of jet fuel in the Southeastern US. Limited acreage is already under production in the Southeast, but critical questions must be addressed to optimize production. This research will address agronomic and ecological aspects of weed management of carinata within existing peanut and cotton rotations common in the Southeast emphasizing weed population dynamics. The incumbent will be mentored by [Dr. Michael J. Mulvaney](#) (University of Florida) and Dr. Ramon Leon (North Carolina State University). The research will be conducted at the UFL WFREC campus. Dr. Mulvaney has a 60% Research and 40% Extension appointment, so opportunities to participate in extension programming will be available.

**Responsibilities will include:**

- Conducting field and laboratory research to integrate and optimize carinata production in relevant farming systems in the region;
- Prepare peer-reviewed and extension publications;
- Travel to other research units as needed; and
- Writing, reviewing, and editing extension and peer-reviewed publications.

**Required Qualifications:**

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- B.Sc. in Agronomy, Crop Science, Soil Science or a closely related field of study that has equipped the applicant with the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position
- Excellent written and oral English skills
- Ability to meet the entrance requirements of the University of Florida Graduate School and the Department of Agronomy
- Self-motivated and highly organized
- Willingness to conduct field research away from the Gainesville campus

### Preferred Qualifications:

- Agricultural field experience
- Strong analytical and statistical skills
- Strong laboratory skills

### Benefits:

- Tuition
- 12-month stipend at US\$20,078+/yr
- Health insurance
- Additional benefits information is available at <http://hr.ufl.edu/benefits-rewards/my-benefits/explore/eligibility/ga/>

### How to apply:

Contact Dr. Michael J. Mulvaney at [m.mulvaney@ufl.edu](mailto:m.mulvaney@ufl.edu) for more information. For consideration, the following documents must be sent to Dr. Mulvaney as a single application package. Incomplete application packages will not be considered.

- CV
- Cover letter explaining your career interests and qualifications
- GRE scores and year taken
- TOEFL scores, if English is not the native language
- Official or unofficial academic transcripts
- Contact information for three references

Department and university requirements are available [online](#). The formal application will proceed online and will require the following materials:

- One page statement of purpose
- GRE scores within the previous five years
- TOEFL scores within the previous two years, if applicable
- Transcripts
- Three letters of recommendation
- Departmental requirement: UF application submitted to the UF Office of Admissions



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Review of candidates will begin immediately and continue until a suitable candidate is appointed. It is anticipated that the incumbent will begin during the Fall 2018 semester, although earlier employment will also be considered.