The University of Florida West Florida Research and Education Center in Jay, FL seeks a full time Turfgrass Science Assistant. 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 golf and sports turf management, cropping systems, weed science, entomology, landscape and nursery management, forestry, and wildlife ecology.

The Turfgrass Science Assistant will report to the Turfgrass Extension Specialist (Dr. J. Bryan Unruh) with day-to-day supervision by the Turfgrass Science Biological Scientist and Senior Laboratory Technician. Activities include implementing and maintaining research plots for turfgrass science (fertilization, soil sampling, recordkeeping, harvesting, data collection and entry), maintenance of turf and laboratory equipment, and executing field and laboratory protocols. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, land preparation, study initiation, research plot maintenance, scouting for pests, scheduling, and working with temporary workers and graduate students. The work is approximately 80% field-based and 20% laboratory-based.

The incumbent must obtain a public pesticide applicators license within 60 days from hire date. A criminal background check will be conducted prior to employment.

Remuneration will be commensurate with experience. Typical starting pay for this position is $13-15/hour but will be adjusted for relevant experience. Due to UF policy, this position is employable for up to 4176 hours, which equates to approximately two years at full time employment. The incumbent may choose to enroll in limited benefits, including:

- Medical insurance
- State Supplemental benefits (dental, vision, cancer/intensive care, & hospital plans)
- 403(b) or 457 voluntary savings plans

Minimum requirements for the position:

- Ability to operate and maintain turf equipment and associated equipment (mowers, tractors, sprayers, etc.)
- Excellent planning skills (weekly work schedules, research prioritization, etc.)
- Experience in turfgrass management
- A can-do attitude
- A hands-on, common sense approach to problems
- Ability to ask questions and work well with others
- Detail oriented and well organized
- Interest in research and turfgrass management
- Ability to work in all weather, particularly heat

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience in a research environment
- Computer literacy (primarily MS Word and Excel)
- B.S. degree in an agriculturally-related discipline.

To Apply For This Position:
Email resume to Dr. J. Bryan Unruh at jbu@ufl.edu. Indicate in subject line “Turfgrass Science Assistant.” Contact Dr. Unruh with questions related to this announcement (850-982-7951).