

**Tropical Research and Education Center  
University of Florida, IFAS  
Homestead, Florida**

**Position:** Post-Doctoral Research Associate

**Location:** Homestead, FL

**Salary:** \$47,476/year depending on experience, plus postdoctoral associate benefits of UF

**Advisor:** Dr. Shouan Zhang (szhang0007@ufl.edu)

**Anticipated start date:** March 1, 2022 or once position is filled

The Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC, <https://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/>) of the University of Florida in Homestead, Florida is seeking a postdoctoral associate to primarily work on dragon fruit canker, an economically important disease caused by *Neoscytalidium dimidiatum* and the most prevalent and destructive disease affecting dragon fruit (pitahaya) production in south Florida. For more information about the disease, please visit <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-10-19-2158-RE> and <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp355>.

**Duties and Responsibilities:** The candidate will investigate potential disease resistance of dragon fruit varieties, determine the role of cultural practices including pruning and sanitation in dragon fruit canker control, and evaluate conventional and organic fungicide programs for this disease control. The incumbent will have the opportunity to be exposed in extension activities including presenting at grower workshops, seminars, and field days. Use of molecular tools for disease detection and identification is included. Frequent travel to the groves in south Florida will be required. Regular reporting to FDACS is required. The incumbent is expected to conduct applied research and publish in international refereed journals. This position will be initially for 1 year and could be extended depends on additional funding and the performance of the postdoctoral associate.

A PhD in plant pathology, microbiology, horticulture, plant science, or related disciplines is required.

Experience in conducting plant science research is required, and experience with plant pathology research in the field is preferred. Excellent organizational and quantitative skills, demonstrated publication record, and experience with experimental design and statistical analysis are essential.

Please submit a cover letter, a CV and the names and contact information for 3 references to Dr. Shouan Zhang ([szhang0007@ufl.edu](mailto:szhang0007@ufl.edu)) if you are interested in this position.

TREC- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement

We are committed to a welcoming, safe, inclusive, and equitable environment for everyone at TREC. We celebrate our diversity and see it as one of our major strengths, knowing that our community is strengthened by our differences and our commonalities. We value the opportunity to share ideas, solve problems, and learn from people with diverse experiences and backgrounds that inform their unique contributions. We respect a multiplicity of identities, including but not limited to race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, socio-economic status, (dis)ability, age, religious commitment, or political perspectives. We strive to promote justice, impartiality, and fairness within our institution and with all we do. We believe in showing respect for one and all.

## UF IFAS- Diversity Statement

The [Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences](#) is committed to creating an environment that affirms diversity across a variety of dimensions, including ability, class, ethnicity/race, gender identity and expression. We particularly welcome applicants who can contribute to such an environment through their scholarship, teaching, mentoring, and professional service. We strongly encourage historically underrepresented groups to apply.

If an accommodation due to a disability is needed to apply for this position, please call 352-392-2477 or the Florida Relay System at 800-955-8771 (TDD) or visit [Accessibility at UF](#) .

*The University of Florida is an equal opportunity, equal access, affirmative action employer. The Government in the sunshine laws of Florida requires that all documents relating to the search process, including letters of application/nomination and reference, except transcripts, be available for public inspection. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation.*