

Post-doctoral Research Associate in Weed Ecology and Management

University of Maine

Department of Plant, Soil and Environmental Sciences

The University of Maine is seeking a motivated and skilled agroecologist, agronomist, or ecologist, with an interest in ecologically-based weed management in organic and low-external-input (LEI) cropping systems, to join the Weed Ecology Group. Research opportunities exist in the areas of (i) physical weed control on small- to medium-scale diversified organic vegetable farms; (ii) weed management strategies in organic bread wheat and other small grains; (iii) basic and applied studies of seedbank dynamics, including seed predation and predator behavior; and (iv) simulation modeling and manipulative field experiments exploring multiple-stress approaches to weed management. Contribution to teaching and outreach is expected. Teaching opportunities include independent instruction of weed biology and identification, team teaching in areas including introductory sustainable agriculture, weed ecology and management, and organic vegetable production. We are emphasizing case studies, on-farm research and demonstrations and video narratives in our outreach efforts, and intend to emphasize innovative use of posted video clips, webinars and blog posting to actively engage stakeholders. Thus, strong communication skills are essential.

Essential qualifications include (1) Ph.D. in agronomy, ecology or related discipline; (2) a demonstrated record of peer-reviewed publication; (3) experience in field or vegetable cropping systems; and (4) strong interpersonal and public speaking communication skills. Desired qualifications include knowledge of organic farming systems, experience in operating farm machinery and establishment and maintenance of field experience. The ideal candidate will have the desire to conduct original research, addressing applied and basic questions related to ecological management of weeds in organic and LEI cropping systems.

The Post-doctoral Research Associate designs, establishes and maintains field, greenhouse or laboratory experiments; develops sampling protocols for experiments; supervises graduate students, temporary employees, and student employees; identifies and communicates with farmer-cooperators regarding on-farm research; communicates with Co-Project Investigators and College Farm and Facilities personnel to coordinate research activities; analyzes data from new or existing experiments; prepares summary tables and figures for publication; drafts manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals; prepares and submits research and/or research/outreach proposals to fund expanded activities related to existing projects or new research areas; prepares applied research summaries for publication, video, or blog outreach products; presents research results at local, regional, and national meetings and conferences; and contributes to program-related teaching and outreach.

The position is housed in the Department of Plant, Soil and Environmental Sciences at the University of Maine in Orono, with office space in the Roger Clapp Greenhouse. A pre-employment physical and valid drivers license is required.

The position is available starting July 1, 2010, for a 2-year appointment, which could be extended for up to one additional year, contingent upon satisfactory performance and funding availability. Please submit a cover letter, resume, and contact information of three references to: Eric Gallandt, Associate Professor of Weed Ecology and Management, Roger Clapp Greenhouse 205, Orono, ME 04469- 5762. Review of applications will commence immediately and will continue until a suitable pool is identified.

Annual Salary Range: \$36,000 - \$41,000 plus benefits, which can be viewed at the following link (<http://www.umaine.edu/hr/benefits/benefitsnewemp.htm>)

The University of Maine is an EO/AA employer.