

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Research Fellow in Horticulture

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-SEA-2026-0316

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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How to Apply *To submit your application, scroll to the bottom of this opportunity and click **APPLY**.*

A complete application consists of:

- An application
- Transcript(s) – For this opportunity, an unofficial transcript or copy of the student academic records printed by the applicant or by academic advisors from internal institution systems may be submitted. Click [here](#) for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- Two educational or professional recommendations
- A copy of an abstract or reprint of an article

All documents must be in English or include an official English translation.

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Application Deadline 10/9/2026 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

Description ***Applications are reviewed on a rolling-basis.**

ARS Office/Lab and Location: A research opportunity is currently available with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), located in Fort Pierce, Florida.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency with a mission to find solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day from field to table. ARS will deliver cutting-edge, scientific tools and innovative solutions for American farmers, producers, industry, and communities to support the nourishment and well-being of all people; sustain our nation's agroecosystems and natural resources; and ensure the economic competitiveness and excellence of our agriculture. The vision of the agency is to provide global leadership in agricultural discoveries through scientific excellence.

Research Project: The Citrus and Other Subtropical Products Unit at US Horticultural Research Laboratory in Fort Pierce, FL is uniquely poised to evaluate the impacts of crop production practices on vegetables and fruit post-harvest quality and nutritional value. The project to which you will contribute is focused on developing novel approaches to pest and plant nutrition management in regenerative agricultural systems and novel crops. You will be a part of a project to learn about conducting experiments in open field, greenhouse, and protected agricultural environments as well as



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the impacts of these practices on the final product.

- Enhancing crop production through improved soil quality
- Incorporating novel approaches to soilborne pest management into existing production systems
- Optimizing production systems to maximize product quality and nutrition

Learning Objectives: Under the guidance of a mentor, you will be trained to:

1. Develop novel components to integrated pest systems that improve pest and disease control while maintaining plant productivity.
2. Co-develop effective light management practices for leafy green production under protective structures.
3. Evaluate plant materials for responses to abiotic and biotic stress (high salinity, heat, and pathogen challenges)
4. Improve field production practices in order to improve crop performance while minimizing loss of nitrogen and other nutrients to the environment.

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Erin Rosskopf (erin.rosskopf@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: 2026. Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

Appointment Length: The appointment will initially be for one year, but may be renewed upon recommendation of ARS and is contingent on the availability of funds.

Level of Participation: The appointment is full time.

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience.

Citizenship Requirements: This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens only.

ORISE Information: This program, administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established through an interagency agreement between DOE and ARS. Participants do not become employees of USDA, ARS, DOE or the program administrator, and there are no employment-related benefits. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE.

Questions: Please visit our [Program Website](#). After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process, please email ORISE.ARS.Southeast@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

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Qualifications The qualified candidate should have received a doctoral degree in one of the relevant fields (Horticulture). Degree must have been received within the past five years.

Preferred skills:

- Experience in subtropical agriculture
- Strong background in plant and soil nutrition
- Experience in data processing, statistical analysis, and interpretation of data
- Ability to develop crop nutrition aspects of team field experiments

Point of Contact [Sara Beth](#)

Eligibility • **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only

Requirements • **Degree:** Doctoral Degree.

- **Discipline(s):**
 - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([4](#) )

- **Veteran Status:** Veterans Preference, degree received within the last 120 month(s).