

## **Assistant/Associate Professor in Plant Breeding/Genetics/Genomics**

**9 month, 25% Teaching / 75% Research – Tenure-Track Appointment**

**Department of Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota**

### **Position Overview**

The Department of Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota seeks applicants to fill a tenure-track, assistant or associate professor position. The successful candidate will be expected to develop a strong interdisciplinary, internationally-recognized, extramurally-funded research program focusing on the genetics/genomics/breeding of the cultivated potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) and its close relatives.

### **About the Department of Horticultural Science**

The University of Minnesota is a preeminent land-grant research and teaching institution in a major urban area with a large and diverse student body and recognized excellence in agricultural research. The Department of Horticultural Science is a nationally recognized department offering highly ranked programs of study at the undergraduate, Master of Science, Master of Professional Studies, and PhD levels. The Department has many distinguished faculty who have won numerous University, national and international awards for quality teaching, outreach, and published research. The faculty work in a variety of fields including plant breeding, molecular genetics, plant metabolomics, plant stress biology, plant hardiness, postharvest physiology, agroecology, and organic horticulture.

The University of Minnesota has centralized analytical services including, among others, the Genomics Center, Center for Mass Spectrometry and Proteomics, University Imaging Centers, and the Minnesota Supercomputer Institute. The Department maintains shared instrumentation for microscopy, qRT-PCR, tissue culture, plant growth and field facilities. In addition, the Department is home to a well-equipped modern facility for Plant Metabolomics and related technologies. The Department has a strong faculty commitment to modern plant breeding and genetics of diverse horticultural species. The University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station maintains multiple Research and Outreach Centers throughout the state for use by researchers.

### **Duties and responsibilities**

#### **Research (75%)**

Research priorities for this position include next generation genetic improvement of the cultivated potato with coordinated efforts to understand the genetic basis for complex agricultural and quality traits of the potato at the molecular and genomic levels; exploring the structure, function and natural diversity of genomes; and creation of new and novel breeding systems that lead to development and commercialization of new cultivars. Essential to this position will be development of collaborative research projects with University of Minnesota researchers and regional plant breeding programs focused on potato with the expectation of developing an awareness of industry needs. The individual will be expected to publish regularly in peer-reviewed journals appropriate to the discipline and to compete successfully for external funding to support their program.

## Teaching (25%)

The successful candidate is expected to have a strong commitment to undergraduate and graduate education, teach coursework in horticulture, and contribute to the department through service on assigned committees. The individual in this position will be expected to teach one course each year in compliance with the College's policy on teaching workload in the Department of Horticultural Science. Additionally, there is an expectation of participation in professional development opportunities supporting teaching and advising. This position is also expected to provide academic mentoring for undergraduate and graduate students in Horticultural Science.

## Qualifications

### Minimum:

- Ph.D. or equivalent in a plant science/breeding, molecular genetics/genomics or related field;
- Experience with modern genetic techniques
- Evidence of scholarly productivity and creativity, such as refereed publications, presentations in professional societies, etc.

### Desired:

- Ability to integrate basic and applied research
- Previous substantive contribution to cultivar development and release
- Demonstrated excellence in written and oral communication
- Evidence of interest and ability to form collaborative partnerships - within and across university disciplines, across national/international institutions, and with private industry
- Evidence of teaching effectiveness
- Evidence of excellence in teaching scholarship
- Evidence of ability and willingness to effectively teach and mentor students from a variety of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds at the undergraduate and/or graduate level
- Evidence of ability to secure extramural funding from public and/or private sources

## Diversity

The University recognizes and values the importance of diversity and inclusion in enriching the employment experience of its employees and in supporting the academic mission. The University is committed to attracting and retaining employees with varying identities and backgrounds.

The University of Minnesota provides equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. To learn more about diversity at the U: <http://diversity.umn.edu>.

To request an accommodation during the application process, please e-mail [employ@umn.edu](mailto:employ@umn.edu) or call (612) 624-UOHR (8647).

## Background Check Information

Any offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of a background check. Our presumption is that prospective employees are eligible to work here. Criminal convictions do not automatically disqualify finalists from employment.

**Application Process:**

Applications must be submitted online through [employment.umn.edu](http://employment.umn.edu) (Search Job Opening 313229, follow application instructions, and attach materials below in online application system). Complete applications must include:

- A cover letter including a general statement of interest in the position
- A statement of research goals and interests
- A statement of teaching goals and interests
- Detailed curriculum vitae with publication list
- Contact information for three references

**Review of applications will start on November 1, but the position will remain open until filled. Only complete applications will be considered.**

Please note that during the interview process, applicants will be asked to describe their commitment, experience and approach to teaching and working with students, colleagues and constituents from diverse and underrepresented populations.

For specific questions, please contact Dr. Tom Michaels, Search Committee Chair, at [michaels@umn.edu](mailto:michaels@umn.edu) (612-624-7711)

Chair, Search Committee  
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We invite you to visit our website at <http://horticulture.umn.edu>