



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

Title: Extension Educator – Horticulture (Turf)
Appointment: Full-time, Assistant Extension Professor, Job Code 9623
Extension Center: Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR)
Location: Regional Extension Office (To Be Determined)
Application Review: **January 30, 2020**; Position is open until filled.

ABOUT THIS POSITION

This Extension Educator (EE) position will provide statewide technical assistance and educational programming leadership for professional turfgrass personnel as well as homeowners in urban areas. Turf systems comprise a significant area of Minnesota and have a strong impact on water usage as well as fertilizer use, which can impact Minnesota's water quality concerns. Turf serves as a common buffer between agricultural land and water systems. Turf is a vital part of the urban garden/farming landscape, and education about turf's role in greenspace management is important for all Minnesotans. The EE will design, develop, implement and evaluate research-based educational programming via online and technology tools, seminars, workshops, field days, or non-credit courses with an emphasis on online tools.

The EE will collaborate closely with Extension and research state faculty, regional and local EEs, industry representatives and other stakeholders from both horticulture and agronomy to extend research into the community. This position will report to the Program Leader in Horticulture for program direction, performance evaluation and personnel actions.

LOCATION OF POSITION

This position will be based in one of the Regional Extension offices in central Minnesota (Farmington, Andover, etc.) that will be determined at the time of hire.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

In the context of the scope of the position and the intended audiences, both outlined in the previous section, the following expectations are:

- Develop collaborative, mutually beneficial relationships with a wide range of stakeholders to include but not be limited to faculty, agricultural and horticultural businesses, consumers, advisory committees, research centers, non-profits, and related agencies to assess conditions, needs, and strategies that will lead to impactful programming in turfgrass and greenspace management with an emphasis in turfgrass selection and production with desired outcomes and impacts;
- Develop education programming using audience appropriate delivery methods and associated existing (when possible) communication channels to maximize efficiency in reaching intended audiences;
- Develop and use program evaluations to measure program outcomes, impact and overall effectiveness that can also inform future programs;
- Provide up-to-date research-based education and information on turfgrass production to horticulture professionals in the commercial and non-profit arenas, and home gardeners through Extension Master Gardener volunteer activities, Arboretum education classes, the Extension website, and others. Align with existing horticulture team communication channels including blogs, online classes, in person workshops or presentations, field days, presentations at professional conferences, online and written publications, fact sheets, bulletins, newsletters, social media, and other related educational materials;

- Plan and conduct scholarly programming and creative activities to meet the needs of professional growers and users of turfgrass. Communicate results through reports, articles, and educational materials for Extension and peer-reviewed publications;
- Use current and appropriate technology for program design, delivery, reporting, communication and trend monitoring;
- Identify, secure and manage external and internal funding sources to support programming efforts in collaboration with industry partners, staff, and appropriate faculty such as the U of M turfgrass science faculty team;
- Continue professional development in scholarship, program development and delivery via conferences, self-directed study and/or other appropriate means of maintaining a high level of expertise;
- Participate and advance in professional performance through annual performance reviews, professional plan of work and promotion;
- Make significant annual contributions to the six promotion criteria in Extension academic rank: program leadership, extension teaching, scholarship, engagement, program management and service.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

- Master's degree is required in horticulture, plant science or a related discipline.

Experience:

- Experience and/or educational specialization in turf/grass production and management.

Skills/Abilities:

- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Technology skills to facilitate technology-enhanced teaching and create online content
- Demonstrated ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships/collaborations with colleagues, partners or stakeholders, (e.g., legislators, program participants and industry groups)
- Ability to use computers and software for word processing, data management and analysis, publications and electronic communications

Appointment also requires:

- Valid driver's license, reliable vehicle to provide own means of transportation throughout the state, and appropriate vehicle insurance
- Reliable cell phone to be used for work related communications

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

Experience:

- Two (2) years' post-degree professional experience in an emphasis area related to the position
- Experience designing, delivering and evaluating educational programs
- Experience in applied research
- Skills in media relations
- Experience facilitating technology-enhanced teaching and creating online content
- Experience conducting applied experiments

Skills/Abilities:

- Professional working relationships with agricultural and horticultural groups including turf/grass professionals, farmers, entrepreneurs, processors, non-profits, and government agencies
- Demonstrated ability to work with limited resource audiences and culturally diverse communities
- Commitment to ongoing professional development
- Demonstrated ability to articulate public value of educational programs
- Ability to maintain a diverse schedule of local, regional, and statewide activities and programs

BENEFITS/APPOINTMENT

1. This is a full-time, annual Academic Professional appointment at the level of Assistant Extension Professor (9623). Renewal is reviewed annually and dependent on performance, results, availability of funds, and program needs.
2. This position carries Extension academic rank. Rank is assigned at hire contingent on education and professional experience and accomplishments. Successful promotion is expected within six years as governed by Extension's promotion system policies and procedures.
3. University of Minnesota appointment and benefits, including health and life insurance, <https://humanresources.umn.edu/new-employees/benefits-summaries>.
4. Reimbursement for travel and subsistence is available in accordance with University policy.
5. Salary commensurate with education and experience.

ABOUT EXTENSION

University of Minnesota Extension is a major outreach arm of the University of Minnesota, a land grant institution with a mission to serve the public through applied research and education. The mission of University of Minnesota Extension is: *"Making a difference by connecting community needs and University resources to address critical issues in Minnesota."* More information about Extension can be found at, <https://extension.umn.edu/>.

TO APPLY

Please apply at: <https://extension.umn.edu/about-extension/careers>. **Job Opening ID: 334704**

Applications must be submitted online. To be considered for this position, please click on the Apply button and follow the instructions. You will be given the opportunity to complete an online application for the position.

Please include the following attachments with your online application:

- Cover letter
- Resume or Vitae
- Three professional references including complete contact information. These can be added to your cover letter or resume, or uploaded as an additional document.

Transcripts for all college work (unofficial transcripts are acceptable) will be required during the interview process.

Additional documents may be attached after the application by accessing your "[My Job Applications](#)" page and uploading documents there.

To request an accommodation during the application process, please email employ@umn.edu or call 612-624-UOHR (8647).

For questions about this position, contact:

Julie Weisenhorn, Extension Educator – Horticulture, and Search Committee Chair, weise019@umn.edu.

For questions about applying online, contact:

Tiffany McMillan, Extension Human Resources, tiffmcm@umn.edu.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Application review will commence on **January 30, 2020**. Position is open until filled.

Any offer of employment is contingent on the successful completion of a background check.

The University of Minnesota Extension is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation.