

**Extension Specialist- Fruit Crops  
Department of Horticulture**

**The College of Agriculture's Department of Horticulture at Auburn University** is seeking candidates for the position of Extension Specialist-Fruit Crops. This position will enhance the economy and quality of life and health of people and their environment through applied horticulture research and Extension programming. The expected start date is January 1, 2016.

**Responsibilities:** This is a 12-month, non-tenure track faculty position with 50% research and 50% extension responsibilities. The successful candidate's responsibilities will involve statewide Extension program planning, implementation, and evaluation. The primary emphasis will be placed on sphere of influence associated with Chilton Research and Extension Center (CREC). The successful candidate will also identify industry needs and build professional relationships with fruit growers, allied industries, relevant government agencies and professional associations. They will be expected to provide technical training that meets the needs of growers, their employees, and ACES field personnel, via presentations, publication, training curricula development, subject-matter expert consultation, on-farm field demonstrations and experiment station field days, as well as, through other relevant program delivery methods.

In addition, the individual will also be responsible for developing and implementing a nationally recognized research program in the area of tree fruit crops which can include peaches, plums, apples, pears, Asian persimmon, and Satsuma mandarins that is extramurally-funded. This will include publication of research results in peer reviewed journals, communication and dissemination of research results to appropriate industry constituencies, and successfully directing graduate students. The successful candidate will be expected to function effectively on a multi-disciplinary team, develop collaborative relationships with faculty in the department and across the college and university. Funding sources include, but are not limited to USDA; Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries Specialty Crops; the Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Associations; and other industry-related entities. In addition, they will also be expected to be actively engaged with the ACES Commercial Horticulture Extension Team, as well as, the CREC team, as an active participant and supporter of its AAES mission and function.

**Qualifications:** Minimum qualifications include an earned M.S. degree from an accredited institution in Horticulture or closely related plant sciences discipline with emphasis in fruit crops. The successful candidate must possess excellent Extension, interpersonal, communication, and organizational skills. The successful candidate must also meet eligibility requirements for work in the United States at the time the appointment is scheduled to begin and continue working legally for the term of employment.

Desired qualifications include a PH.D. from an accredited institution in Horticulture or closely related plant sciences discipline with emphasis in fruit crops and/or experience in fruit crop production practices. Strong pest management knowledge and/or background is desired. Experience in successful acquisition of extramural funding, experience in transformative Extension education programming, and demonstrated ability to develop a research program along with publications in peer reviewed journals is also desired.

**Application:** Applicants must apply for the position electronically through: <http://aufacultypositions.peopleadmin.com/postings/1122> and submit the following: 1) cover letter addressing the candidate's experience pertinent to the responsibilities of the position, 2) Curriculum vitae, 3) Statement of Extension program philosophy, and (4) copies of all academic transcripts. When prompted during the on-line application process, please provide names, phone numbers and email addresses of three professional references. Only complete application materials will be considered. Active review of applications will begin October 1, 2015, but the search will continue until the position is filled. Questions about the position should be directed to:

Dr. Elina Coneva  
Search Committee Chair  
Department of Horticulture  
101 Funchess Hall  
Auburn University  
Email: [edc0001@auburn.edu](mailto:edc0001@auburn.edu)

**The University:** Auburn University is a land-grant institution with a student enrollment of more than 24,000. The University provides instruction in approximately 70 academic departments and maintains graduate research and public service programs of a broad scope. The University is located in the city of Auburn in east-central Alabama near the metropolitan areas of Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama, and Columbus and Atlanta, Georgia.

**The Department:** The Department of Horticulture consists of 17 full-time faculty and 15 staff conducting programs in research, teaching and outreach/extension activities. More information can be found at [www.ag.auburn.edu/hort/](http://www.ag.auburn.edu/hort/).

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