

Postdoctoral Position in Root Biology

The Juenger lab at the University of Texas at Austin is recruiting a postdoctoral position to lead research on the root system architecture of C4 perennial switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*). The project involves a multidisciplinary team of investigators including ecologists, physiologists, modelers, engineers, and genomic scientists. Our goal is to characterize the relative role of switchgrass genotype, local environments, and their interaction in the patterns of root growth, development, and physiology. A key feature of the funded project is the development of high-throughput field based techniques for studying roots including soil coring, mini-rhizotron imaging, and the use of transmission and backscatter x-ray technologies. Opportunities exist for genetic mapping of plant genes affecting features of the perennial root system, characterization of the root/microbiome interface, and studies of root growth and turnover on ecosystem processes.

The position requires a PhD in Ecology, Plant Biology, Agronomy, Crop Science or a related field. The ideal candidate will have experience sampling plants and soils for field studies of root growth, development, or physiology. We are looking for highly motivated candidates with excellent communication skills, initiative, and enthusiasm for large collaborative team efforts. Our diverse research effort offers an ideal scenario for cross-disciplinary training, leveraging existing datasets and resources, leadership opportunities, a creative work environment, and avenues for applied impact in the development of sustainable biofuels.

Austin is the state capital of Texas, an inland city bordering the Hill Country. Home to the University of Texas, Austin is known for its eclectic live-music scene, sizeable tech sector, and SXSW Conference. Its many parks and lakes are popular for nearly year-round hiking, biking, swimming and boating. Austin boasts approximately 300 days of sunshine per year and is America's fastest growing city. <https://hr.utexas.edu/prospective/austin>

We encourage applications from female, minority, and culturally diverse candidates. Please email all applications to bethaney.watson@austin.utexas.edu with the subject "Postdoctoral Application: root biology". Applications should include a cover letter detailing experience and research interests, a current CV, and contact information for three professional references compiled in a single pdf file. Applicants can find additional information about the Juenger lab at https://sites.cns.utexas.edu/juenger_lab. Applications will be considered until the position is filled.