

AUGUSTIN AND BURCH JOIN IFAS SOUTH FLORIDA



Dr. Bruce J. Augustin has recently assumed the position of Assistant Professor at the University of Florida's Agricultural Research Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

His efforts will focus on the water use of turfgrasses, with 70% extension and 30% research responsibilities. Extension activities will include the development and dissemination of information on turfgrass growth and management recommendations regarding water conservation and quality. Research activities will be directed towards evaluation of the quantity and quality of water required by turfgrasses and their relationship to management practices.

Dr. Augustin obtained a B.S. degree in Plant Science from the University of Delaware, a M.S. degree in Plant Science from the University of Idaho and a Ph.D. degree in Agronomy from the Ohio State University. He has worked on public and private golf courses in Delaware. While at the University of Idaho, he was a graduate research assistant in the turfgrass seed research program. At the Ohio State University he served as a graduate teaching associate for several crop courses, including turfgrass science.



Dr. Derek Burch was recently appointed to the position of Assistant Professor of Ornamental Horticulture at the University of Florida Agriculture Research Center in Fort Lauderdale. He joins an interdisciplinary group concerned with the production, protection and management of ornamental plants. As Extension Foliage Specialist he will have the responsibility of supporting the work of the County Extension agents with commercial growers in the southern half of the state. He will place particular emphasis on strengthening the flow of information to the growers and on ensuring that educational and research efforts are responsive to the needs of the industry.

Dr. Burch was born in Great Britain, and received his training in Agriculture and Botany at the University of Wales where he went on to complete a Masters degree in Plant Pathology. After working with a sugar company in the Dominican Republic, he came to Florida and held positions with Fairchild Tropical Garden and Fantastic Gardens in Miami before continuing graduate studies at the University of Florida. On the completion of his Ph.D. he was appointed Chief Horticulturist at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, leaving there after four years to teach and to develop the botanical garden at the University of South Florida in Tampa. For the past five years Dr. Burch has been a consultant and owner/operator of a nursery and landscaping business in Puerto Rico.

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