

## PhD Position in Invasion Ecology at Virginia Tech

### Position Summary:

We are looking for a PhD student to participate in an interdisciplinary project designed to understand both the ecological and evolutionary processes that have enabled Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*) to rapidly colonize much of the United States. Johnsongrass is recognized as one of the world's worst weeds and presents a serious threat to biodiversity and food security worldwide, particularly in the Southeastern United States. The successful applicant will conduct field-based studies of the population demography of a wide range of Johnsongrass accessions collected from across North America. The student will also be expected to design and execute independent research projects in the subject area of their choosing that complements the overall project. The Barney lab (<http://oak.ppws.vt.edu/~jnbarney/>) has particular strengths in the fields of invasion ecology, global change biology, ecological niche modeling, and simulation modeling. Students with interest or skills in these areas, in addition to an interest in ecology, are highly encouraged to apply. The incumbent will be expected to submit manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals, to present results at scientific meetings, and to mentor undergraduate students. Position includes a competitive salary, tuition, and fringe benefits.

The student will also apply to become a fellow of the Interfaces of Global Change graduate group. See <http://globalchange.phd.com/apply/> for more details regarding the program and application process.

### Qualifications:

Candidates should have a BS and/or MS degree in ecology, biology, or related field. Strong written and oral communication skills are required. Interested candidates should submit a curriculum vita, transcripts (unofficial is ok), GRE scores (and TOEFL scores for international applicants), contact information for three references, and a statement of interest as a single pdf file to Dr. Jacob Barney (jnbarney@vt.edu) BEFORE applying to the graduate program or graduate school. Please contact Dr. Barney with questions regarding this position.

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Virginia Tech is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Institution. Individuals with disabilities desiring accommodations in the application process should notify the search chair by the review begin date.

Jacob Barney, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Invasive Plant Ecology  
Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Weed Science  
Virginia Tech  
435 Old Glade Rd (0330)  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
540.231.6323  
jnbarney@vt.edu  
<http://oak.ppws.vt.edu/~jnbarney/>  
@jnbarney