

Kawther Al-Jasim

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Horticulture Science

University of Florida, Gainesville, USA

May 2020

Master's degree in agriculture (Horticultural Science Department)

University of Kufa/ Agricultural Collage/ Horticulture Science Department

July 2008

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Horticultural Science Department)

University of Kufa/ Agricultural Collage/ Horticulture Science Department

July 2004

WORK/RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **Jan 2016-April 2020:** Graduate Research Assistant, University of Florida, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL

Ph.D. Degree (Dissertation Title): Novel Approaches of Manipulating the *FT3* Early Flowering Gene to Induce Early Flowering and Fruiting in Juvenile Citrus Hybrids and Transgenic Plants.

Master's degree (Thesis Title): Effect of the foliar spray of GA₃, NAA, and Folic Acid on the vegetative growth of *citrus aurantium* rootstock seedlings.

- Received hands-on experience working with various techniques such as gene transformation using *Agrobacterium transformation*.
- Conducting studies by developing standardized protocols and applying it onto transgenic plants.
- Using some viral vectors such as Citrus Tristeza Virus by inoculation and infection to deliver genes to a plant such as flowering genes.
- Worked on different projects to micropropagate transgenic plants.
- Expertise in molecular biology skills like DNA and RNA isolation, gel electrophoresis, PCR, qPCR.
- Performing experiments, analyzing data, preparing project reports and manuscripts for publication.
- Citrus breeder under Dr. Jude Grosser supervision.
- Biotechnologist under Dr. Manjul Dutt supervision.
- Tissue culture professional under Dr. Michael Kane supervision.

LABORATORY AND FIELD SKILLS

- Skills in PCR, RT-PCR, qPCR.
- Skills in Western Blotting Test.
- Skill in ELISA Test.
- Skills in handling the laminar flow, autoclave.
- Extensive knowledge of different microscopic adjustments.
- Acquaintance with various instruments in Biotechnology Lab
- Lab experience: Micropropagation plant by tissue culture technique, and Transformation.
- Plants: Emasculation, pollination.
- Preparing study plans in the field and applying them in research.
- On-field experience: Experience in citrus propagation at field scale during 2005-2017 in Practical wood plants Production.
- On Greenhouses experience: Experiences to propagate Plants by a different type of technique, micrografting, grafting, cuttings.
- Off-field: Work experience with various extension organizations.
- Proficient in the identification of insect-pests and diseases of citrus and their management.
- Comprehensive knowledge of various diseases and insect-pests of citrus

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- **Computer:** JMP software, Microsoft Office, and References data base such as Endnote and Mendeley.
- Interaction with farmers during village-training visits and university level farmers' fairs.
- Possess excellent communication and troubleshooting skills.
- Good documentation and presentation skills.
- Ability to work independently and with a team.
- Languages- English and Arabic.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Four years' Experience in teaching plant growth regulators, Fruit propagation and Protected cultivation, Biotechnology, Plants Micropropagation.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

- Received two recognize awards at the English Language Institute/ University of Florida 2015.
- Attended International Research Conference on *Huanglongbing* (IRCHLB) held at Orlando, Florida from March 14-17, 2017.
- Attended the State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida as a Judge in March 2017.
- Attended workshop professional development for plant scientists in August 2017.
- Attended the State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida as a Judge in March 2018.
- Attended the State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida as a Judge in March 2019.
- Attended and presented some research work at GREC, Wimauma, Florida April 2019.
- Attended and presented some research work at CREC, Lake Alfred, Florida April 2019.
- Attended and presented some research work at CREC Lake Alfred, Florida April 2019.
- Attended and presented some research work at SIVB conference Tampa, Florida, June 2019.
- Attended and presented some research work at ASHS conference Las Vegas, Nevada, July 2019.
- Attended a workshop and presented some research work at for plant scientist's symposium in August 2019.

AWARDS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Scholarship (October 2013-December 2019) to obtain Ph.D. degree Horticultural Sciences from the Ministry of High Education in Iraq.
- Scholarship Award/ graduate assistant \$5,824.26 from Citrus Research and Education Center Spring 2020.
- Contribution and participation award \$400 from Gator Citrus Club at the University of Florida, Gainesville.
- Member of Gator Citrus Club at the University of Florida, Gainesville.
- Member of Plant Science Council at the University of Florida, Gainesville.
- Member of Horticulture Science at the University of Florida, Gainesville.
- Certified from Sandia National laboratory for Chemical and biological security training Kanas city/ Missouri December 2017.
- Certified from Sandia National laboratory for Chemical and biological design training Denver/ Colorado, June 2019.