Dr. Cheryl Dalid

Plant Breeder

Dr. Dalid is a plant breeder with a research background in self-pollinated, cross-pollinated, and clonally propagated crops. Her research interests include utilizing genomic and phenomic selection for cultivar development and exploring genetic diversity to discover important genes for developing high yielding crops with disease resistance and abiotic stress tolerance.

Dr. Dalid obtained her PhD in Plant, Soil, and Environmental Science with a concentration in Plant Breeding and a minor in Statistics from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Her doctoral dissertation is on genetic variation and identification of QTLs in lowland switchgrass (Panicum virgatum L.) which aimed to evaluate the genetic diversity among lowland switchgrass populations, to assess genetic variation and estimate expected genetic gain in lowland switchgrass, and to identify QTLs associated with biomass yield and establishment-related traits using a nested association mapping population.

After finishing her PhD in 2018, she moved to Florida to work as an Assistant Plant Breeder with the UF Strawberry Breeding and Genetics program at the University of Florida/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center. Currently, Dr. Dalid oversees designing and conducting experiments in the laboratory, greenhouse, and field related to strawberry breeding and genetics with an emphasis on controlled pollinations, marker-assisted selection, advanced yield trials, and field selections and evaluations for advancements and cultivar release. She leads the strawberry phenomics project to identify high yielding genotypes with optimum plant size using high resolution images from ground-based imaging and from a UAV platform. She also developed custom-made apps to improve phenotypic data collections, field selections for advancements, crossing activities, and seed management.