



Leandro Otavio Vieira Filho

PhD Candidate

Soil and Water Sciences

Leandro is originally from São José dos Ausentes, Brazil. He grew up in a 6th generation family ranch in the mountain region of Rio Grande do Sul state. He earned his BS degree in Agronomy from the Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology of Santa Catarina. During his BS degree, he had the opportunity to study abroad at Oregon State University (USA) where he was involved in water stress and plant nutrition research of white cabbage and hybrid onion under the supervision of Dr Matthew D. Madsen. He also worked with Dr Fernando J. Garbuio and Dr Fabiana Schmidt on soil fertility research of rice paddy fields. A few months after the graduation, he started his Master's degree at the University of São Paulo (College of Agriculture "Luiz de Queiroz"), under the guidance of Dr Francisco A. Monteiro. His MS project was focused on investigating the potential of tanzania guinea grass as a phytoremediator of copper under different Si management strategies.

After completing his MS, Leandro returned to his family ranch for one year to work with agricultural production. In 2018, he contacted Dr Maria L. Silveira and took time to prepare for the PhD admission process. In the summer of 2019, Leandro began his PhD with the Soil and Water Science Department at University of Florida under the guidance of Dr Silveira. His doctoral research is focused on soil P dynamics and the agronomic impacts of biosolids applications to grazing land ecosystems.

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