



Temporary Position Available

Title: Horticulture Research Assistant - Propagation
Date Posted: June 30, 2021
Wage: \$15/hour, benefits not available
Hours: 19 hours/week. Work schedule may fluctuate with project needs.

Line of Responsibility:

Reports to the WSU Puyallup Small Fruit Plant Breeding Program Lead and Staff.

Location:

Working location is based at 2606 W Pioneer Ave., Puyallup WA 98371.

General Description and Responsibilities:

Small Fruit Plant Breeding develops strawberry and raspberry cultivars adapted to the Pacific Northwest and with excellent fruit quality for processed and fresh applications. Additionally, the program studies cultivars, selections, and germplasm for traits of interest.

The research assistant will support the project directors with plant propagation through tissue culture and greenhouse work. Other laboratory work includes preparing reagents and culture media, cleaning labware, and laboratory inventory. Some fieldwork and office-related work such as data entry will be required. This is a great opportunity to learn more about plant breeding for improved food production, micropropagation and lab techniques, and horticulture and nursery production.

Primary Duties:

The research assistant may be involved in a wide variety of tasks, however, the main duties include:

- Tissue culture of plants
- Greenhouse plant propagation
- Preparation of laboratory reagents and sterile media
- Record keeping and data management.
- Other laboratory work
- Other field and harvest work seasonally

Position Specific Minimum Qualifications:

- 1) One year of post high school undergraduate education in applied, biological, chemical, physical or agricultural sciences OR equivalent education/experience preferred.
- 2) Demonstrated experience with basic chemistry and laboratory practices.
- 3) Demonstrated experience with plant systems.
- 4) Ability to communicate proficiently using oral, written and listening skills.

- 5) Demonstrated ability to work effectively as a team member, work independently and be self-motivated.
- 6) Proficiency in the use of personal computers, smartphones and software, including word processing, applications, spreadsheets and databases.

Job Expectations:

- Keep accurate, detailed records, complete timely reports, enter data as needed and regularly communicate with the Project Director.
- Work flexible hours that may include some evenings.
- Ability to interact appropriately with a variety of individuals.
- Ability to complete assigned tasks without direct supervision.
- Good vision required, including close- and distance-vision, and the ability to adjust focus and distinguish colors.
- Ability to continually learn and a willingness to readily adjust to rapid and unexpected changes in tasks.
- Ability to prioritize and arrange job assignments.
- This position requires active fieldwork and some office work. Long hours outdoors in adverse weather conditions will be required. This position requires the ability to perform light to medium lifting, stooping, kneeling, and walking.
- Employees must have current automobile liability insurance (meeting the requirements described in RCW 46.30.020 and RCW 46.29.090) and possess a valid driver's license.
- Understand and carry out the principles and specific requirements of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Affirmative Action Plan, and all pertinent rules and regulations.

Application:

Apply by submitting a brief letter describing how your experience and training support the major responsibility and qualifications for the position. Include a resume and three references. Screening applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position has been filled.

Send application materials (email preferred) to Wendy Hoashi-Erhardt, 2606 W Pioneer, Puyallup WA 98371. Phone 253.445.4641 or email wkhe@wsu.edu.

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