

Plant Pathology Research Assistant (Plant Technician I)

Washington State University, Puyallup Research and Extension Center

Supervisor: Gary Chastagner

Primary roles

The primary role of the Plant Pathology Research Assistant will be to assist with fieldwork related to plant health research in the Ornamental Plant Pathology Program. The employee will assist with plant pathology research projects related to the management of fungal pathogens on Christmas trees, field-grown cut flowers, and greenhouse-grown bedding plants.

Major Tasks

Field work

Responsibilities include assistance with the care and management of plant nurseries, greenhouses, and field plots.

- Constructing, labelling, mapping and maintaining plots
- Working with plants (e.g. transplanting, planting, watering and weeding)
- Collecting and entering data.
- Greenhouse maintenance (watering, fertilizing, cleaning)

In addition, the employee may assist with projects that involve the use of low-pressure steam to manage diseases and pests. This involves working with a steam generator and temperature recording equipment. The employee will assist WSU staff in setting up steaming plots, placing temperature sensors and dataloggers, collecting and processing soil moisture samples, operating the steam generator, and other activities.

Computer work

Computer tasks will include entering data, configuring and downloading temperature recording equipment, and writing detailed notes and summaries.

The employee will also help with other projects of the Ornamental Plant Pathology program as needed.

Required Qualifications

- High school graduation or equivalent and two years of work experience in plant research, plant propagation, or related work. College training in one of the plant sciences may be substituted, year-for-year, for required experience. One year of additional applicable experience may be substituted for educational requirements.
- Moderate computer literacy – tracking hours, entering data and emailing will be required.
- Ability to work in outdoor conditions.
- WA drivers license and proof of insurance are required. Must be at least 18 years old and have more than 2 years driving experience.
- Basic understanding of biology and microbiology.

Preferred Qualifications

- Computer literacy – capacity to collect and manage data in excel.
- Experience working with plants in a nursery, greenhouse, or field.
- Moderate to heavy lifting.

Position FTE

The position is part time (estimated at 10-30 hrs/week) and pay is dependent on experience, but initially requested at \$17.38/hr or equivalent pay as designated by step F in Plant Technician I Non-Permanent Civil Service Classifications.

To apply, please email a resume and a short description of why you are interested, including availability, to melliott2@wsu.edu and lucas.ulrick@wsu.edu.