



Temporary Position

Title: Horticulture Field Technician – 2 positions available
Date Posted: May 12, 2022
Compensation: \$17/hr, benefits not available
Hours: 20-35 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; also to Faculty and Staff at the Northwest Washington Research and Extension Center and regionally based staff.

Location:

Working location is based at the Puyallup Research and Extension Center, Northwest Washington Research and Extension Center in Mount Vernon and at cooperating farms in Lynden and Everson, WA.

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.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about plant breeding for improved food production, soil preparation, field management, irrigation, horticulture, plant disease, and applied research.

Primary Duties:

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

- Crop and research trial management, including weeding, pruning, trellising, and mowing
- Field trial preparation and plant propagation
- Berry harvest and handling
- Data collection and fruit sampling
- Soil work, including tilling and seeding.
- Equipment maintenance and inventory

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) Two years of driving experience.
- 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, and communicate daily with the Program Lead and Farm manager.
- Work flexible hours that may include some evenings.
- Ability to interact appropriately with a variety of individuals.
- Ability to complete assigned tasks independently and 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 readily adjust to rapid and unexpected changes in tasks.
- Ability to prioritize and arrange job assignments.
- This position requires active fieldwork. Long hours outdoors in adverse weather conditions will be required. This position requires the ability to perform medium to heavy 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), be at least 18 years of age, and have a valid driver's license and two years' driving experience.

Application:

Apply by submitting a resume and brief letter describing how your experience and training support the major responsibility and qualifications for the position. 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.

Washington State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action educator and employer. Women, ethnic minorities, Vietnam-era or disabled veterans, persons of disability and/or persons age 40 and over are encouraged to apply. WSU employs only US citizens and lawfully authorized non-US citizens. All new employees must show employment eligibility verification as required by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service. Accommodations for applicants who qualify under the American with Disabilities Act are available upon request.