

Plant Health Unit, Plant and Animal Health Branch British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture

2017

Location: Abbotsford Agriculture Center

2 or 3 positions available; approximately four month terms, depends on funding

Lab Assistant R7, step 1: \$1437.03 bi-weekly, plus holiday pay and cash in lieu of benefits

Start date: between May 1 and June 1

Finish date: between Aug 30 and Sept 30

Plant Health Technician:

Either a graduate or undergraduate student, or recently completed in any relevant post-secondary programs (i.e. agriculture, horticulture, biology). Candidates will be considered who have interest and experience in agriculture, pest management, and data entry and analysis.

Brief Description of Activities:

The technician will work on applied research and survey projects in the area of entomology and pest management within the Plant Health Unit. Time will be spent on sample assessments in the lab (sorting, counting, identification, etc), spring and summer collecting/trapping (field work) of various species, including but not limited to spotted wing *Drosophila*, brown marmorated stink bug, apple maggot, corn rootworm, and other berry or vegetable pests.

Duties Include:

- Following our lab standard operating procedures
- Monitoring for insects using wet traps, sticky traps, pheromone traps, and visual searches for insect presence
- Data collection and recording
- Data analysis
- Interacting with BC Ministry of Agriculture staff, researchers, and other partners on the projects
- Farm visits during survey and research activities
- Some photography in field, and in lab (microscope)
- Literature and web searching
- Work with the supervisors to develop reports and documents
- Some basic insect identification skills

Required Skills and Qualifications:

- Training in agriculture, biology, or related science program
- Interest in applied science and optimally, interest in pest management of horticulture crops
- Some background and understanding of production agriculture and pest management
- Good writing skills, and familiarity with MS Office
- Good organizational skills; capable of working with limited guidance
- Good communication skills
- Familiarity with biology lab procedures
- Class 5 driver's license

Please send your resume and cover letter by March 24, 2017 to:

Tracy Hueppelsheuser; Abbotsford Agriculture Center, 1767 Angus Campbell Road, Abbotsford, V3G 2M3, Phone: (604) 556-3031, Tracy.Hueppelsheuser@gov.bc.ca