

Plant Breeding Research Technician

The Plant Breeding Research Technician supports the development of improved fruit cultivars for the breeding programs at the Company in Bakersfield, California. Responsibilities include data collection and analysis, including genotypic data and phenotypic data collection in the field, greenhouse, and laboratory. This position will also assist in overall activities of the fruit breeding programs, such as assisting with harvest, fruit quality evaluation, and data processing. This position will support the overall efforts of Company to introduce and commercialize improved varieties of fruit in a global marketplace.

Responsibilities:

- Performs data collection, statistical analysis, summarizes research, and writes reports.
- Assists with routine plant breeding program functions, including determining fruit maturity, harvesting of fruit samples, assessments of fruit quality, and additional evaluations.
- Collect and analyze phenotypic data in the field, laboratory and greenhouse to support plant breeding efforts.
- Performs tissue collection, DNA isolation, and molecular analysis to support the breeding programs, including DNA genotyping and sequencing.
- Assists in the design and execution of trials in laboratory, test plots, and commercial fields.

Preferred Experience, Skills, and Training:

- Bachelor's or master's degree in horticulture, agronomy or related field with one or more years of relevant work experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience.
- One or more years of experience in field-based applied plant breeding program with related field, laboratory, and greenhouse operations and maintenance experience.
- Ability to perform molecular biology techniques such as PCR, DNA preparation/extraction, and gel electrophoresis. Experience with high-throughput DNA isolation is preferred.
- Experience with next-generation DNA sequencing and processing large DNA sequence data sets is desirable.
- Expertise in database use and electronic data capture and ability to manage and statistically analyze diverse data.

- Basic understanding of plant breeding and genetics, experimental design principles, plant breeding data management needs, and field plot techniques in an agricultural research setting.
- Highly motivated, self-starting, flexible team worker who has a demonstrated interest in plant breeding and cultivar development.
- Must be willing to learn and work with others or independently as needed.
- Must be proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) or similar software, and basic computer hardware set-up.
- Must be able to perform a physically demanding job in hot and humid greenhouse and field conditions while standing for long periods of time.
- A valid driver's license and occasional travel within California is required.