



AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIAN - TREE FRUIT PHYSIOLOGY

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANT AGRICULTURE- HORTICURAL CROPS RESEARCH
STATION -SIMCOE, ONTARIO**

- Job Title:** Agricultural Technician (contractually limited)
- Period:** April 1, 2024 – Nov 29, 2024 (with possibility of extension)
- Education:** B.Sc. degree in horticultural (*with pomology experience*) or *related plant science degree with a minimum of two years of previous experience in agricultural research, or an equivalent combination of education and experience.*
- Hours:** 37.5 hours per week
- Rate:** Commensurate with Experience (GTAT Band B or C)

The Tree Fruit Physiology Program at the University of Guelph, Horticultural Experiment Station, Simcoe is now accepting applications for an agricultural technician to assist with a diverse field and lab-based research program examining the physiology of apple and peach trees. This technical position will focus on projects in tree physiology, rootstock and cider apple cultivar development, crop load management, and methods to control tree growth and cropping. The duties involve all technical aspects of field experiments and assisting with the supervision and training of summer students and assisting graduate students.

The successful candidate will be responsible for maintaining plots, collecting data including growth and yield data, imposing treatment, using quantitative and qualitative techniques, grading fruit, assessing fruit quality, working in the laboratory using analytical equipment, data entry, statistical analyses, summarizing data, and assisting with the preparation of research reports.

Requirements of the position include Canadian citizenship or permanent residency status, B.Sc. degree in horticultural or related plant science degree with a minimum of two years of previous experience in agricultural research, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Preference will be given to those with a M.Sc. degree in horticulture or plant science.

The successful candidate should possess a sound knowledge of pomology with focus on tree fruit crop physiology and orchard management. Further, the candidate will be required to lift 40 kg repeatedly, climb ladders, and work outdoors in extreme environments. In addition, computer literacy in Microsoft Word and Excel, an ability to work independently and as part of a team environment, working with laboratory equipment, strong interpersonal and communication skills, and a valid full G driver's licence are required. The successful candidate will need to be well organized, work in a highly collaborative environment, and be able to prioritize workload demands. Those with an understanding of statistical design and data analyses (e.g. SAS) will be given preference.

Please send a resume with cover letter indicating how you meet the above criteria. Send by email to JCline@uoguelph.ca. If you have questions or require further information, please contact: Professor John Cline, University of Guelph, Department of Plant Agriculture, Simcoe, Ontario N3Y 4N5 Tel: (519) 426-7127 Ext 331.

We thank all applicants for their interest but wish to advise that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The closing date for this posting is Friday March 1, 2024, at 4:30 pm or until a suitable candidate is found.

Skills for Success

(The following skills are essential for individual and organizational success)

SKILLS

EXAMPLES OF DEMONSTRATED BEHAVIOR

Inclusiveness

- Shows respect for differences in backgrounds, lifestyles, viewpoints, and needs in reference to areas such as ethnicity, race, gender, creed, and sexual orientation
- Promotes cooperation and a welcoming environment for all
- Works to understand the perspectives brought by all individuals
- Pursues knowledge of diversity and inclusiveness

Adaptability

- Is flexible, open and receptive to new ideas and approaches
- Adapts to changing priorities, situations and demands
- Handles multiple tasks and priorities
- Modifies one's preferred way of doing things

Self-Development

- Enhances personal knowledge, skills, and abilities
- Anticipates and adapts to technological advances as needed
- Seeks opportunities for continuous learning
- Seeks and acts upon performance feedback

Communication

- Demonstrates the ability to express thoughts clearly, both orally and in writing
- Demonstrates effective listening skills
- Shares knowledge and information
- Asks questions and offers input for positive results

Teamwork

- Builds working relationships to solve problems and achieve common goals
- Demonstrates sensitivity to the needs of others
- Offers assistance, support, and feedback to others
- Works effectively and cooperatively with others

Service-Minded

- Is approachable/accessible to others
- Reaches out to be helpful in a timely and responsive manner
- Is diplomatic, courteous, and welcoming

Stewardship

- Demonstrates accountability in all work responsibilities
- Exercises sound and ethical judgment when acting on behalf of the university
- Exercises appropriate confidentiality in all aspects of work
- Shows commitment to work and to consequences of own actions

Motivation

- Shows initiative, anticipates needs and takes actions
- Demonstrates innovation, creativity and informed risk-taking
- Engages in problem-solving; suggests ways to improve performance and be more efficient
- Strives to achieve individual, unit, and university goals

RESPONSIBILITIES/ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS: List the position's assigned responsibilities and estimate percentage of annual time spent on each responsibility. Include only the essential functions that are fundamental and necessary to the position.	
Task	Approximate % of time
Data Collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-station trials and travel to commercial research plots off station • Frequently requires tedious counting and measurements of apple, buds, flowers, fruitlets, fruit, and trees. • Conduct various laboratory procedures using an array of specified equipment • Assist with crop harvests, measuring and recording tree yields. 	55%
Technical Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical support in carrying out research activities • Help team members set up and maintain plots as needed for field research. • Transport samples to storage sites or research facilities for further analysis. • Assist in other fieldwork and projects in commercial fruit farms as needed. • Other duties and responsibilities as assigned. • Assists graduate students with lab and field activities • Coordinate field activities with farm crew and commercial growers 	25%
Supervision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervises summer students and coordinates their daily work in conjunction with other team members 	10%
Data Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data entry into Excel spreadsheets. • Utilize simple data analysis using Excel or other basic statistics software. 	10%