

Plant Health Technician (seasonal)

Overview:

This position will perform duties in the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets in support of the Plant Health team's seasonal field survey work. The main goal of the position is to assist with the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) and Plant Protection Act (PPA) trapping and visual survey programs.

Hourly rate: \$22.29

Job duties:

- Work independently to set, collect & maintain CAPS and PPA traps for invasive insects
- Assist with *Phytophthora ramorum* survey (collecting samples at nurseries)
- Conduct nursery inspections for pests & disease with oversight from Plant Health team
- Assist with plant health regulatory activities as needed
- Provide outreach materials to public about invasive pests such as Spotted Lanternfly and Jumping Worm

Preferred candidates will demonstrate the following:

- Ability to travel around the state and work independently in field conditions
- Familiarity with the horticultural industry
- Basic plant and pest identification
- Proficiency with Excel and data collection/management
- Ability to interact with the public while representing VAAFM

Minimum qualifications:

- 2 years of coursework towards a plant science, agriculture, forestry, entomology, or related degree
- Experience conducting field work, recording data, and collaborating in a scientific environment
- Valid Driver's License (vehicle will be provided)
- Proficient in speaking English; familiarity with Spanish language may be useful as well.

Equal Opportunity Employer:

The State of Vermont celebrates diversity, and is committed to providing an environment of mutual respect and meaningful inclusion that represents a variety of backgrounds, perspectives, and skills. The State does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion or belief, national, social or ethnic origin, sex (including pregnancy), age, physical, mental or sensory disability, HIV Status, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, marital, civil union or domestic partnership status, past or present military service, membership in an employee organization, family medical history or genetic information, or family or parental status. The State's employment decisions are merit-based. Retaliatory adverse employment actions by the State are forbidden.

If interested please send resume, brief cover letter, and 3 reference contacts to benjamin.dillner@vermont.gov. Include start date availability and any other considerations. See attached document for more details about the position. Deadline to apply 4/10/23.