

Specification for Class of

PLANT PATHOLOGY LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Abolished 9/15/06

Definition: In the Plant Pathology Laboratory and Greenhouse, performs a variety of classification, diagnostic and related procedures. May supervise assigned personnel.

Typical Work

Performs laboratory and greenhouse operation as directed by the Plant Pathology Program Manager; coordinates associated field/laboratory projects;

Maintains sample records, technical references, diagnostic results, supply and equipment inventories;

Prepares and processes field samples for diagnostic procedures; documents, prioritizes, and classifies new samples; determines/implements sample handling, storage, and preliminary diagnostic methodologies;

Prepares and maintains artificial media; practices sterile techniques; operates biological lab equipment;

Performs routine isolations for suspected pathogens/parasites; utilizes standardized cultural methods, uses technical references as needed and approved;

Performs literature searches at various research centers in support of plant pathology projects, maintains the programs reference library and technical files;

Maintains greenhouse space as directed by the Plant Pathology Program Manager for regulatory purposes; utilizes accepted plant maintenance procedures; uses recognized plant propagation techniques;

Prepares plant disease specimens for the reference herbarium; maintains collection for daily use;

Assists the Plant Pathologist with the development of training aids, technical manuals and other resource information;

Maintains a clean laboratory, and aseptic transfer room; services equipment regularly;

Serves as data entry and computer support person for laboratory/plant pathology programs;

Performs other work as required.

Knowledge and Abilities

Knowledge of: laboratory equipment and techniques; greenhouse operations and maintenance; horticulture/agriculture pest and disease problems; plant taxonomy and propagation; principles of record keeping work planning and computer usage.

Ability to: follow direction, work independently with minimum supervision; communicate clearly, verbally and in writing; plan, organize and execute daily laboratory/greenhouse operations; research technical information.

NOTE: Must be willing to travel occasionally.

Minimum Qualifications

Two years of college or vocational school including at least ten hours of Botany, Ornamental Horticulture, or Plant Pathology.

AND

One year of experience working in a life sciences laboratory.

New class

Effective November 13, 1987