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| **Date of Issue:** | **06/27/2022** | **CBU:** | **UMPSA** |
| **Position No:** | **00021641** | **Job Family:** | **7903** |
| **Department:** | **OSBE** | **OT Eligible:** |  |
| **Campus:** | **UM** | **Wage Grade:** | **02** |

# **Position Summary:** The research program for plant disease on lowbush blueberry is looking for a Research Assistant to conduct and support lowbush blueberry research in the lab and in the field. Tasks include implementing and documenting results of laboratory, field and greenhouse experiments. Research involves treatment application, and data collection, tabulation, analysis and summary. This is a full-time, 12 month position contingent on external funding.

# **Essential Duties:**

* Plans and implements field, laboratory and greenhouse experiments on disease problems in wild blueberries.
* Applies pesticide treatments used in experiments.
* Troubleshoots field experiments and field equipment
* Performs lab experiments on fungal and disease samples
* Collects field and laboratory data, tabulates, analyzes, summarizes, and interprets data in the form of written reports.
* Identifies and arranges for labor, supplies, and materials necessary to complete research projects.
* Assists in compiling research into reports and publications.
* Attends appropriate research and Extension meetings related to the research program.
* Liaison with blueberry industry, research and development, government and University personnel in relation to wild blueberry research.  Meets with wild blueberry cooperators located throughout the state.
* Acts as lab manager, organizing undergraduate students and purchasing materials for the lab.
* Provides safety management for students and staff.
* Trains and directly supervises undergraduate students in laboratory and field procedures
* Occasionally supervises classified farm workers in field experiments
* Works effectively and cooperatively with members of the School of Biology and Ecology staff, UMaine administration, the campus community, and external clients and customers.
* Other reasonably related duties will be performed as required.

1. **Knowledge, Skills and Qualifications**

**Required:**

* + Typically has the education associated with a B.S. or B.A. degree in a related area of science.
  + Knowledge of and ability to apply experimental and registered pesticides. Certification as a Commercial Pesticide Applicators License for category 10 and 1B is required within 2 months of hire.
  + Experience working on field studies.
  + Demonstrated excellent interpersonal, oral, and written communication skills.
  + Demonstrated ability to exercise independent judgment and initiative and manage multiple tasks and deadlines.
  + The ability to travel and a valid driver’s license with a clean driving record.
  + The successful applicant must have the ability to travel and work under field conditions under sometimes adverse weather conditions and sometimes alone.
  + The applicant will also need to occasionally lift weights up to 30lbs and carry them up to 200ft.

**Preferred:**

* MS degree or equivalent experience.
* Successful supervisory experience.
* Experience working on plants, preferable blueberries.
* Experience with statistics for analysis of field experiments.

1. **Reporting Relationship:** Associate Professor
2. **Supervisory Responsibilities:** Supervision of 2 to 5 student workers and occasionally classified farm employees for day to day work activities.
3. **Position Type:**  Full-time, regular fiscal-year professional position. Initial appointment for 12 months with reappointment contingent on the receipt of continued external funding and successful job performance.
4. **Work Environment/Dynamics:** Position is based at room 11 Deering (office) and lab spaces in room 10 and 12 Deering Hall and 152 Hitchner Hall on the University of Maine, Orono campus. Extensive travel to and field work at Blueberry Hill Farm in Jonesboro, Maine and field sites on the farms of wild blueberry cooperators throughout the state is required through March to November.
5. **Work Schedule:**  Normal University of Maine business hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Work outside regular hours (to include early mornings, nights and weekends) will be necessary in order to allow for seasonal field activities required by the research and in order to meet the requirements of the position. The employee will establish regular office hours and in consultation with the supervisor, adjust the work schedule as necessary.
6. **Work Year:** Fiscal-year, full-time position
7. **Job Family: 03/ Salary Band: 02**

Appropriate background checks and pre-employment physical will be required.

All UMS employees are required to comply with applicable policies and procedures, as well as to complete applicable workplace related screenings, and required employee trainings, such as Information Security, Safety Training, Workplace Violence and Sexual Harassment.

Note: The University of Maine reserves the right to change or assign additional duties as necessary.