

Pathology Lab Assistant



Location: French Camp, CA, 100% full-time on-site

Position Summary

California Berry Cultivars (CBC) is seeking a motivated and detail-oriented **Pathology Lab Assistant** to join our plant pathology and molecular laboratory team at French Camp, CA. This position supports the strawberry pathology program, including pathogen culture maintenance, inoculum preparation, and disease screening. Additional responsibilities include plant disease diagnosis, molecular lab workflows and general laboratory operations. The role offers hands-on experience and professional growth opportunities within CBC's expanding research and development programs.

Applicants

Please send your resume and cover letter to: admin@cbcberry.com

The position is open for immediate fulfillment to the right candidate, and we will continue to collect applications until the position is filled.

Key Responsibilities

- Perform fungal pathogen culture, maintenance, and inoculum production.
 - Support greenhouse disease screening experiments, including setup, data collection, and record keeping.
 - Assist with molecular biology procedures such as DNA/RNA extraction, PCR, RT-PCR, and qPCR.
 - Prepare culture media, buffers, and reagents for microbiology and molecular assays.
 - Conduct isolation and identification of plant pathogens (fungi, bacteria, etc.) and assist with taxonomy as well as molecular diagnosis.
 - Maintain laboratory cleanliness, organization, and waste management.
 - Operate and maintain laboratory equipment (centrifuges, pipettes, incubators, thermal cyclers, biosafety cabinets, etc.).
 - Follow biosafety and phytosanitary protocols to ensure laboratory compliance.
 - Collaborate across teams and provide general work support as needed.
-

Qualifications & Skills

- Bachelor's degree (or working toward) in Plant Science, Biology, Microbiology, Biotechnology, or a related field.
- Prior experience in microbiology, molecular biology, or plant pathology preferred.
- Strong attention to detail and ability to follow written SOPs.
- Familiarity with aseptic techniques and laboratory instrumentation.
- Excellent organizational, data management, and communication skills.
- Ability to work independently and in a team-oriented environment.
- References will be required.



Physical Requirements

- Ability to sit or stand for extended periods at a laboratory workstation.
 - Manual dexterity for handling delicate plant tissues and lab tools.
 - Ability to lift up to 25 lbs occasionally (supplies, media containers, etc.).
 - Visual acuity to perform work under microscopes and other lab equipment.
-

Work Environment

- Laboratory setting with sterile conditions and use of lab equipment.
 - Possible exposure to chemicals, growth media, and sterilization processes.
 - Greenhouse settings all year, including hot summers.
 - Occasional overnight travel for sample collection.
-

Compensation

- Pay Scale: \$20 – \$30 per hour (depending on experience and qualifications).
 - Medical, dental, and vision coverage.
 - Basic Life and AD&D insurance.
 - 401k company match.
 - 2 weeks of paid time off, paid-sick leave, & paid holidays, increases with tenure.
 - We also provide numerous opportunities to build your skills.
 - Relocation assistance
-

Employment Type

- Full-time, non-exempt position.
 - Employment is at-will in accordance with California state law.
-

Equal Opportunity Employment

California Berry Cultivars, LLC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All employment decisions are made without regard to race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or any other protected characteristic under applicable federal, state, or local law.
