

# 2023 Field Technician for Mosquito Monitoring and Horticulture Project

## BRIEF JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) is looking to fill a single position for a seasonal laboratory, field assistant and invasive plant outreach coordinator to work on two projects starting this spring on a 40 hour per week basis, until completion of the projects next winter. The first project involves educating plant sellers about invasive plants that may become hitchhikers in plant pots, root balls or other horticultural materials and providing best management practices to prevent weeds in production, holding, display or sales areas. The successful candidate will develop outreach and educational materials, plan, coordinate and implement in-person and online workshops, and work with growers to solve invasive plant management issues. The second project involves mosquito trapping and testing activities for the Maine statewide mosquito monitoring program as described in DACF's "Plan for the Protection of the Public Health from Mosquito-borne Diseases." The successful candidate will assist in selecting sites and servicing mosquito traps weekly, assist in mosquito identification, properly handle, and label specimens using cold-chain protocol, keep records and manage data. Work will be based in Augusta, Maine, with some opportunity for telework. Some statewide travel is expected, including to mosquito monitoring sites from Augusta to Unity that are visited regularly. Contract position at \$15/hr.

## KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ABILITIES:

- Education and Experience:
  - o Biology, horticulture, entomology, botany or related field.
  - o Priority given to training or experience in insect and/or plant identification and the use of dichotomous keys.
  - o Understanding of common plant production practices and invasive species management is a plus.
  - o Pesticide applicator license preferred, but not required.
- Computer Skills:
  - o Ability to use Microsoft Office applications including, Word, Excel, Outlook, Teams, PowerPoint, and Publisher.
  - o Priority given to candidates that can conduct simple data analyses within spreadsheets (simple formulas, creating graphs, copying graphs and tables from Excel to Word) and comfort writing technical reports.
  - o Experience designing displays, posters, and other outreach materials.
- Communication Skills:
  - o Strong verbal and written communication skills.
  - o Experience presenting information one on one and to small or large groups.
  - o Experience creating written content for use in printed outreach materials and for newsletters and websites.
  - o Ability to communicate with supervisors and collaborating laboratories about routine sample drop off dates and times.

- Organizational Skills:
  - o Must be able to manage multiple priorities and switch back and forth between projects easily and work independently.
  - o Good time management and record keeping abilities including while in the field.
  - o Ability to stay organized between different work locations (field, lab, office, remote worksite).
- Field and Lab Skills:
  - o Comfort in field and laboratory conditions.
  - o Comfortable handling live insects (specifically mosquitos) and plants.
  - o Ability to traverse uneven ground while carrying approximately 15-20lb of equipment (field sites are within the woods).
  - o Ability to drive to coordinate locations and follow instructions to find remote field sites.
  - o Experience with use of a dissection microscope.

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Candidates must have a valid driver's license and be at least 18 years of age.

## TO APPLY:

Please email a cover letter and resume or C.V. to Hillary Peterson ([hillary.peterson@maine.gov](mailto:hillary.peterson@maine.gov)). For questions, please email or call Hillary at (207) 215-4793.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Monday March 27, 2023