

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CLASS

The BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN provides technical support in the identification, survey, and detection of economic insects, plant disease and threatened and endangered plant species in Oregon. The Biological Technician also provides support for propagation and transplantation of threatened and endangered plant species and for the exclusion, eradication, and control of economic insect pests and plant diseases.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

This is a single classification and not currently part of a series of classes.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Laboratory Identification and Diagnosis.** Typical tasks: prepares nematodes, plant material or insects for identification, propagation, or analysis; prepares culture media and chemical solutions; performs isolation procedures for pathological identification; assists in the curation of the insect and plant collections; maintains laboratory equipment; orders laboratory supplies; and maintains laboratory reference material.
2. **Certification.** Typical tasks: oversees and participates in the collection of plant material for virus testing; prepares material and runs Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) tests for viruses; oversees and participates in budding of test material to indicator plants; prepares material and examines microscopically for presence of fungal diseases; analyzes and records test results; prepares and maintains permanent records of all certification tests; directs activities of temporary employees involved in certification testing; maintains necessary equipment and supplies; and examines samples of plant material for presence of economic insect pests.
3. **Survey and Detection.** Typical tasks: participates in periodic and continuing surveys for economic insect, mite, nematode pests, economic plant diseases and threatened and endangered plant species; directs activities of temporary personnel involved in surveys; maintains records of survey results; prepares maps and other reports for entomologist or plant pathologist.
4. **Maintenance of Greenhouse and Testing Facilities.** Typical tasks: plants, propagates, irrigates, prunes, and cultivates field indicator plants for virus testing; applies pesticides as needed for control of insects, disease and weeds; organizes and maintains records of field plots; plants and maintains greenhouse indicator plants and selected endangered plant species; inoculates plants for disease diagnosis; maintains greenhouse equipment; and directs activities of temporary employees.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

Employees contact growers and their employees as needed to obtain information about plant materials submitted for certification and to obtain information about specific insect and plant species, either in person or by telephone.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

Employees in this class are generally supervised by the supervising plant pathologist/botanist or supervising entomologist, who gives work assignments and reviews completed assignments for conformity to established laboratory and field procedures.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Positions require the willingness to work in both the laboratory and field environment. Positions are occasionally required to work long hours, travel overnight, or drive long distances in response to a pest outbreak; are regularly exposed to laboratory chemicals; and occasionally exposed to pesticides.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES (KSA)

Basic knowledge of botany, plant pathology, entomology, and biology.
Basic knowledge of current agricultural practices in Oregon.
Basic knowledge of pesticides and proper application procedures.
Basic knowledge of laboratory methodology.

Skill in the preparation and maintenance of accurate records and reports.
Skill in the operation of specialized equipment, such as insect collecting devices, backpack sprayers, microscopes, and other laboratory equipment.

Ability to recognize selected insects, nematodes, plants, or diseases.
Ability to employ diagnostic techniques for disease certification programs.
Ability to direct the activities of temporary employees and provide technical instruction.
Ability to establish harmonious working relations with fellow employees and the public.
Ability to work independently to complete assigned projects.
Ability to lift and carry 20-30 pounds on a regular basis.
Ability to travel or work in adverse weather conditions.

NOTE: The KNOWLEDGE and SKILLS are required for initial consideration. ABILITIES may be required for initial consideration, at any time during the selection process, or during a trial service period as a final stage of the selection process. Some duties performed by positions in this class may require different KSA's. No attempt is made to describe every KSA required for **all** positions in this class. Additional KSA requirements will be explained on the recruiting announcement.

Adopted 4/90

Revised

Examples of work are typical of duties assigned to this class. No attempt is made to describe every duty performed by all positions in this class.