Research Associate I - Substrate in Oxnard, CA

Job Summary

The Research Associate will support the Farm Manager in Oxnard with substrate growing operations and trials among breeding substrate. The Research Associate will be responsible for all aspects for growing excellent breeding plants used in the varietal selection process by breeders from start to finish. This position will be focused on the complex structure of substrate growing and control.

Qualifications

- Bachelor’s Degree in Agronomy, Ag Systems Management, Horticulture, Greenhouse Management, or Crop Sciences.
- 1-3 years of experience is desired.
- Demonstrated planning experience and working knowledge of farm infrastructure.
- Strong foundation in production agriculture and agronomic sciences.
- Knowledge of complex irrigation systems preferred.
- An understanding of and experience with greenhouse production is advantageous.
- Ability to work in the field, office and corporate settings, including the ability to perform, repetitive, physical work as necessary.
- Ability to manage assets, including equipment, labor.
- Pesticide applicators’ license, PCA license preferred.
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) fluency preferred.
- Experience with research protocols; and knowledge of plant physiology, health and pest pressure assessment, knowledge of soils/water and agricultural practices.
- Proficiency with computer programs (Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Outlook)
- Mechanical knowledge and agricultural tools expertise.
- Self-starter, hands-on, ability to work independently and work well with teams.
- Detail-oriented, effective verbal and written skills, good organizational, math, chemistry and analytical ability.
- California Driver’s license and the ability to be covered under company-sponsored vehicle insurance program are also required.

Responsibilities

- Substrate growing for breeding/selection purposes.
• Coordinate set-up and take down of all substrate growing for all commodities including material orders etc.
• Regular field walks to ensure pests and diseases are being managed, plants are healthy and all growing is being done to the upmost quality.
• Ensure proper watering and fertility is being executed every day with complex computer based injection systems.
• Ability to work well with all supervisors and employees at a ranch level.
• Design expansion layouts for substrate installations in coordination with Farm Manager.
• Collaboration with breeding staff to ensure plants are being grown to breeding standards.
• Aid other researchers in carrying out important plant trials including data collection.
• Occasionally help design and perform farm trials to improve our internal processes.
• Proper maintenance schedule of fertility equipment along with daily visual checks.
• Supervise an intern or technician to aid in irrigation maintenance and lysimeter water quality data collection.
• Follow operating budgets by purchasing, tracking, and coding farming expenses. Understand and provide support if needed in the planning processes.
• Ensure the security of Driscoll’s confidential and proprietary information and materials.

Contact: James.duBois@driscolls.com; Michael.Christensen@driscolls.com