

# Fruit Quality Research Intern

Location: Watsonville, CA • On-site • Seasonal



## Position Summary

We're looking for a seasonal research intern to support fruit quality data collection and evaluation at our Watsonville breeding trial site during peak harvest season. This is a hands-on, physically demanding position in a harvest shed environment. You'll be collecting measurements using analytical instruments, managing samples, and working daily alongside a bilingual field crew.

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## Applicants

Send your resume and a brief cover letter (no more than half a page) to [admin@cbcberry.com](mailto:admin@cbcberry.com). In your cover letter, tell us: (1) why you're interested in this role, and (2) describe a time you had to maintain precision under time pressure.

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

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## Key Responsibilities

- Collect fruit quality measurements across breeding trial material during harvest
  - Operate analytical instruments under established protocols
  - Manage sample handling, storage, and evaluation on a defined weekly schedule
  - Maintain organized, accurate datasets with consistent formatting and regular quality checks
  - Communicate and coordinate daily with Spanish-speaking field crew
  - Prepare a written summary of findings at the conclusion of the internship
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## Qualifications & Skills

### Required

- Currently enrolled in or recently completed a degree in Plant Science, Horticulture, Food Science, Agronomy, Biology, or a related field
- Strong attention to detail, organizational skills, and ability to follow standard operating procedures
- Ability to work on your feet for extended hours in a physically active harvest environment
- Reliable transportation to the Watsonville facility
- Available full-time for approximately 10 weeks (June through mid-August)

### Preferred

- Bilingual English/Spanish – conversational fluency preferred for daily crew coordination
- Experience with analytical lab instruments (refractometers, pH meters, or similar)
- Familiarity with agricultural field data collection

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- Coursework or experience in post-harvest physiology or food science
  - Proficiency in Excel for data entry and organization
  - Previous work experience in agriculture, food processing, or a laboratory setting
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## Physical Requirements

- Ability to stand, bend, and move for 6-8 hours per day in a harvest shed environment
  - Manual dexterity for handling fruit samples and operating lab instruments
  - Ability to lift up to 25 lbs (sample containers, supplies)
  - Visual acuity for reading instruments and evaluating fruit quality
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## Work Environment

- Harvest shed setting – dusty, active, fast-paced during processing days
  - Cold storage areas for sample management
  - Coordination with field crew in outdoor and covered environments
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## What You'll Get

- Hands-on experience in a commercial strawberry breeding program
  - Direct mentorship from CBC's staff
  - Experience with modern fruit quality assessment methods
  - Your data will directly influence variety advancement decisions
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## Compensation

This is a seasonal, temporary, non-exempt position. The hourly pay range for this internship is \$20-\$25 per hour, depending on experience and qualifications. This position does not include benefits. Employment is at-will in accordance with California state law.

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## 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.

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