Position Announcement: Research Support Specialist I

Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology, Cornell University

Location: Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center, Riverhead, NY

Supervisor: Margaret Tuttle McGrath

Availability: Position is open with need to fill by April 2016.

Application: Contact Margaret McGrath at mtm3@cornell.edu

Description: The responsibilities of this position are to assist the principal investigator with most aspects of her research/extension program. The overall goal of this program is to improve the management of diseases of vegetable crops grown on Long Island by identifying factors favorable for disease development and evaluating various management programs for organic and conventional crop production. Experiments involve several different pathogenic organisms (mainly fungi and oomycetes, but occasionally bacteria) that affect different vegetable crops grown in New York (assorted cucurbits, tomatoes, peppers, and other vegetables as industry needs dictate). The incumbent is responsible for planning, designing, and conducting experiments conducted in the laboratory, greenhouse/growth chamber, and in field locations plus analyzing results. Supervise personnel associated with the project (summer seasonal employees). Field research activities will include laying-out experiments, planting and transplanting, applying fungicide treatments using both backpack and tractor sprayers, assessing disease severity and harvesting crops. The incumbent is expected to be able to work independently with general supervision and is expected to exercise independent judgment throughout and to contribute to developing research projects. Maintain a safe working environment to ensure that all protocols and procedures adhere to safety requirements.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor’s degree or equivalent, 2-3 years of experience or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Preferred Qualifications: Advanced degree in plant pathology. There is opportunity for advancement to a higher-level position for qualified individual demonstrating capability to handle additional responsibilities.