

Position Announcement

Soil Health and Tree Fruit Extension Educator

Position Details

Located at the Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center in Wenatchee.
100% FTE.

University Title	Scientific Assistant
Working Title	Soil Health and Tree Fruit Extension Educator
Position Number	124173
Department	Agriculture and Natural Resources
Hiring Unit	Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center
Work Location	Wenatchee
Position Supervisor	Prof. Tianna DuPont



Join our team: This position is your opportunity to support research and Extension efforts on topics critical for the sustainability of tree fruit production in Central Washington. Currently our team is focused on providing educational opportunities and applied research results focused on soil health and integrated management of pests and plant pathogens. Soil Health is critical to maintaining the long-term productivity of croplands. Washington State has recently launched the Washington State Soil Health Initiative to help growers track and improve soil health on our farms. As part of this initiative a Long Term Agricultural Research and Extension site will be launched for Tree Fruit in Central Washington. Six thousand acres of apples planted every year in Washington are at risk to apple replant disease while potential risks to human and environmental health threaten to eliminate fumigation which is currently the only technology available to reduce replant risk. Three on-farm trials are ongoing tracking the potential for alternatives to fumigation for replant disease management. Fire Blight is a devastating bacterial disease affecting apple and pear. Recent disease epidemics in WA have caused up to 5% loss of production in apple and pear and more than \$100 million in losses. A national collaboration initiated in 2020 has been funded to 1) improved non-antibiotic management options and strategies validated on a national scale, 2) improved methods to minimize systemic spread of the pathogen that too often results

Summary of Duties: This position will support Research and Extension activities for Soil Health and Integrated Management of Tree Fruit Pests and Pathogen Extension programs based in Wenatchee WA. This position will collaborate on projects focused on soil health, fire blight, replant disease, little cherry disease and integrated pest management of pears. He or she will perform a wide range of duties including field work, laboratory analysis, data analysis, and organization of workshops and outreach activities. This project will require a high degree of communication and collaboration with industry. Duties will include actuating trials, maintaining research orchard blocks, rating damage, conducting laboratory assays, and communicating with trial hosts. Other required activities include data entry, summary, statistical analysis, preparation of presentations and reports. Experimental and analytical skills, precision, reliability, understanding and knowledge of research theory, excellent organizational skills are required. Extension duties will include support for innovative workshops and farmer trainings and the creation of outreach materials. Ability to work outdoors in all-weather required.

To apply visit: https://wsu.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/WSU_Jobs/job/Soil-Health-and-Tree-Fruit-Extension-Educator_R-4207

For more information about our program visit <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/tianna-dupont/>

WSU is an EO/AA educator and employer.

Duties

Conduct experiments 40%

- Conduct experiments in the laboratory and field per the protocols provided.
- Set up, operate necessary equipment and instrumentation.
- Work with research scientists, technologists, and graduate students for the successful completion of experiments.
- Maintain field plots.
- Prepare the materials needed for the experiments. This will include, getting the ingredients weighed, mix the ingredients as per the protocols and have the trial batches ready.
- Calibrate the analytical equipment as per the protocols. Ensure that they are ready for the trials.
- Conduct the experiments, record all the necessary experimental conditions and collect the samples appropriately.
- Collect the samples, label appropriately and store them properly.

- Conduct analytical tests on the collected samples, based on the protocols provided by the Scientists.

Laboratory management 15%

- Organizing and carrying out field and laboratory trials.
- Preparing protocols.
- Data entry, summary, statistical analysis, preparation of presentations and reports.
- Completion of travel and grant paperwork.
- Locate and purchase supplies.

Outreach 40%

- Communicate with growers and industry through phone calls, online database, email, and participation in local meetings.
- Work with Extension to organize, market, and evaluate educational events including field visits and intensive trainings under the mentorship of the project lead.

Other 5%

- Other duties as assigned

Required Qualifications

- Earned bachelors degree in closely related science field,
- Strong interest in applied research and outreach,
- Strong analytical skills,
- Ability to work independently as well as with an interdisciplinary team of researchers, extension specialists, and other project participants,
- Interest in apple, pear, integrated pest management and sustainability,
- Excellent organizational skills,
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Have a valid driver's license, or obtain one by time of hire.

Preferred Qualifications

- Evidence of high-quality publications and presentations,
- Experience working with growers and agricultural industry,
- Familiarity with tree fruit production, pest management and ecology