

## Pear Entomologist

### Ad Copy

Join WSU's Tree Fruit Extension Team. Nationally, Washington ranks first in the production of apples, sweet cherries, and pears. The Washington tree fruit industry contributes more than \$6 billion of annual impact to the state's economy. The industry is committed to sustainable agricultural practices and conservation of water resources. Together with the State's tree fruit industry, Washington State University strives to be the world leader in tree fruit research and education.

This position will provide stakeholder prioritized pear IPM tools to the nation's top pear industry. Washington state grows nearly one half of US pears with a crop valued at \$145 million. A significant portion of Washington's pear production occurs in the Wenatchee river valley a dense growing area with a majority of tree fruit acreage planted in pears. Pear psylla and spider mite management are the top priorities identified by area growers and industry members. This project builds on previous work by our team which identified a bio-based IPM approach where spray programs conserve natural enemies and control psylla to create a scouting network where pest and natural enemy populations can be used to inform spray decisions and implement an IPM approach.

This position will lead a project to develop and test a model Pear IPM scouting network. The project will create a database and online mobile Ap which will allow scouts to upload information which will be available through the Ap to growers and consultants. During the pilot the incumbent will train and mentor two scouts annually. Said scouts working with the incumbent will scout fifty blocks (approximately 1,000 acres). The incumbent will work with the Pear IPM team to create a model which can be scaled to cover the portion of pear acres actively transitioning to a selective IPM Program. Data gathered through the scouting network will be used to test economic thresholds based on psylla and natural enemy densities. Working with the scouts psylla, mite and natural enemy populations will be measured for 26 weeks per year. Pest incidence, fruit quality and profitability will be compared. Research results will be published in scientific journals and Extension publications. Extension to pear growers throughout the region will help improve profitability for growers and sustainability for the planet.

The incumbent will conduct field trials including scouting, insect identification and data entry. The incumbent will supervise and train scouting staff. Project management will include collaboration with stakeholders, and grant management. The incumbent will lead evaluation and outreach of project efforts.

### To apply

Dependent on experience apply for Postdoctoral Research Associate #132394

[https://wsu.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/WSU\\_Jobs/details/Pear-Entomologist---Postdoctoral-Research-Associate\\_R-6886](https://wsu.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/WSU_Jobs/details/Pear-Entomologist---Postdoctoral-Research-Associate_R-6886)

or Scientific Assistant #215496 [https://wsu.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/WSU\\_Jobs/details/Pear-Entomologist---Scientific-Assistant\\_R-6904](https://wsu.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/WSU_Jobs/details/Pear-Entomologist---Scientific-Assistant_R-6904) positions.

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