



Plant Breeding Research Technician

The Plant Breeding Research Technician supports the development of improved fruit cultivars for the breeding programs at IFG in Bakersfield, California. Responsibilities include data collection and analysis, including genotypic data and phenotypic data collection in the field, greenhouse, and laboratory. This position will also assist in overall activities of the fruit breeding programs, such as assisting with harvest, fruit quality evaluation, and data processing. This position will support the overall efforts of IFG to introduce and commercialize improved varieties of fruit in a global marketplace.

Responsibilities:

- Collect and analyze phenotypic data in the field, laboratory and greenhouse to support plant breeding efforts.
- Performs data collection, statistical analysis, summarizes research, and writes reports.
- Assists with routine plant breeding program functions, including determining fruit maturity, harvesting of fruit samples, assessments of fruit quality, controlled pollinations, and additional evaluations.
- Performs tissue collection for DNA isolation and molecular analysis to support the breeding programs.
- Assists in the design and execution of trials in laboratory, test plots, and commercial fields.
- Assists with the propagation of grapes and cherries in the field and greenhouse.

Preferred Experience, Skills, and Training:

- Bachelor's or master's degree in horticulture, agronomy or related field with one or more years of relevant work experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience.
- One or more years of experience in field-based applied plant science with related field, laboratory, and greenhouse operations experience.
- Experience working with woody plants is preferred.
- Experience scouting pests and diseases in field and greenhouse settings.
- Experience conducting data analysis with common genotypic data formats and software.
- Expertise in database use and electronic data capture and ability to manage and statistically analyze diverse data.
- Basic understanding of applied plant research, experimental design, and statistical analysis.

- Must be proficient in R/Rstudio, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) or similar software.
- Must be a highly motivated, self-starting, and flexible team worker.
- Must be willing to learn and work with others or independently as needed.
- Must be able to perform a physically demanding job in hot and humid greenhouse and field conditions while standing for long periods of time.
- A valid driver's license and occasional travel within California is required.

IFG, the creator of the Cotton Candy® grape, is a global leader in developing improved fruit cultivars with an emphasis on seedless table grapes and sweet cherries. IFG headquarters is located in the southern San Joaquin Valley with offices in Bakersfield, CA and the company's varieties are planted in over 14 countries. IFG's primary goal is to bring forward new fruit varieties that inspire consumers.

Please send all job enquiries to cowens@ifg.world