

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ▼
HUMAN RESOURCES ENTERPRISE

ENTOMOLOGIST

DEFINITION

Performs professional scientific work in the prevention and control of damage to plants and crops from harmful pests; performs related work as required.

The Work Examples and Competencies listed are for illustrative purposes only and not intended to be the primary basis for position classification decisions.

WORK EXAMPLES

Inspects nurseries, greenhouses and other plant sales facilities for insects, plant diseases, nematodes, mites and other harmful pests; recommends control measures or certifies facility as free from harmful pests if warranted.

Inspects nursery materials and agricultural seeds to be exported from Iowa for harmful pests in order to certify eligibility to be sold in interstate commerce.

Examines insect and plant specimens in a laboratory in order to identify pests, determine the extent of present and probable damage to the affected plants and recommend remedial measures.

Participates in insect surveys and other research programs in cooperation with university officials, federal agencies, participating organizations and other state agencies.

Researches possible pest control methods in order to develop more effective methods of pest control.

Prepares technical scientific reports concerning inspection, certification, research and consultation activities.

COMPETENCIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of plant health studies including entomology, biology, botany, plant pathology, and related sciences necessary to perform inspections and research required in the job.

Knowledge of the rules and regulations of Chapter 177A, Code of Iowa (Iowa Crop Pest Act) in order to perform inspections, and determine appropriate action.

Knowledge of federal rules concerning permit issuance and attainment Federal Phytosanitary Certification required for plant products to be exported.

Ability to identify and properly classify insects and other pests that affect plant health.

Ability to use laboratory equipment and supplies necessary to determine the nature of plant problems.

Knowledge of field and laboratory techniques used to identify causes of damage to plants.

Knowledge of methods of treatment for plant pest infestations.

Knowledge of entomological research methods and techniques such as insect sampling and control techniques including bio-control, cultural mechanical and chemical control methodologies.

Ability to work independently at consistently applying departmental policies and procedures regarding plant pest inspection and control operations.

Ability to prepare technical scientific reports concerning the procedures and results of inspections, certification activities, research, consultation, and permit issuance.

Displays a high level of initiative, effort and commitment towards completing assignments efficiently. Works with minimal supervision. Demonstrates responsible behavior and attention to detail.

Ability to conduct oneself in a tactful and diplomatic manner with other governmental officials, owners of nurseries, farms, and with individuals or groups involved with plant pest control.

Ability to perform assigned duties in a variety of surroundings, some of which at times may present limited risk because of the presence of certain pesticide residues, including wooded areas, cropland, nursery lots, storage areas, and scientific laboratories.

Works and communicates with internal and external clients and customers to meet their needs in a polite, courteous, and cooperative manner. Committed to quality service.

Displays high standards of ethical conduct. Refrains from dishonest behavior.

Works and communicates with all clients and customers providing polite, quality professional service.

Displays a high level of initiative, effort, attention to detail and commitment by completing assignments efficiently with minimal supervision.

Follows policy, cooperates with supervisors and aligns behavior with the goals of the organization.

Fosters and facilitates cooperation, pride, trust, group identity and team spirit throughout the organization.

Exchanges information with individuals or groups effectively by listening and responding appropriately.

EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, AND SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree including 20 semester hours in entomology, horticulture, plant pathology, biology, biotechnology, botany, forestry or agronomy and one year of full-time professional experience in any of the major areas;

OR

thirty semester hours from an accredited college or university with graduate coursework in entomology, horticulture, plant pathology, biology, biotechnology, botany, forestry or agronomy.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

All applicants for this classification must be able to obtain a valid driver's license.

NOTE

Employees are expected to travel extensively throughout the State of Iowa.

Effective Date: 04/10 DDF