LABORATORY TECHNICIAN – RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

BioForest is looking to add a highly motivated and independent individual to its unique and rapidly growing forest health and pest management company, located in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Established in 1996, BioForest specializes in innovative product development and consulting strategies for urban and commercial forest protection. For more information visit www.bioforest.ca.

Position Summary

Reporting to the Research and Development (R&D) Manager, the laboratory technician is responsible for planning and delivering the laboratory-based, scientifically sound projects that fall under the R&D department. The R&D department plays a key, collaborative role in supporting the achievement of BioForest's high-level corporate goals, including those focused on the continual improvement of BioForest's current product line, pest management strategies and the development of new products and strategies. This is a full-time, contract position for a one (1) year period with the possibility of a permanent position thereafter. The candidate will be responsible for independently executing, troubleshooting and optimizing laboratory and greenhouse research trials using fungi, bacteria and plant extracts and will be further responsible for:

Duties and Responsibilities

- Execute excellent aseptic technique in fungal and/or bacterial isolations, cultivation (various types of agar growth media), preservation, enumeration (direct cell/spore counts, viability counts, serial dilution), inoculation, storage and organism identification (microscopic and genetic)
- Perform toxicological insect bioassays and greenhouse trials using promising fungi and bacterial biocontrol agents as well as other active ingredients against emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, spruce budworm, cabbage lopper and other insects
- Perform plant-based efficacy bioassays in the laboratory and greenhouse with biofungicides, microbial inoculants, stimulants, foliar feeders and other active ingredients
- Evaluate efficacy of various biofungicides and bioherbicides in various plant and fungal systems
- Conduct basic molecular biology (DNA/RNA extraction/cleanup, PCR, gel electrophoresis, imaging, interpreting sequencing data); other techniques (e.g., microsatellites)
- Conduct basic chemistry (preparing solutions/solvents, dilutions from stocks, changing molarity, changing pH)
- Design and execute complex experimentation including data collection, summary and thorough analysis in support of research and development projects
- Develop or modifying experimental protocols as needed, from literature reviews, consultation with other scientists or preliminary trials
- Provide recommendations and observations to staff and management on results of projects/tasks
- Initiate communication with required staff and business units as needed to coordinate activities effectively
- Execute statistical data analyses using software packages (including, but not limited to R, SAS, JMP, Sigma Plot and Systat)
- Generate oral and written reports as necessary to summarize laboratory activities and projects
- Maintain records of laboratory activities and notebooks in a professional and accurate manner
- Manage/maintain the laboratory (GLPs, SOPs, SDS binder, ordering supplies cleaning/autoclaving glassware/materials)
- Maintain laboratory safety (handling/disposing biohazardous waste, proper chemical storage)

Qualifications

- Undergraduate or Master's Degree in Plant Pathology, Insect Pathology, Microbiology, Bacteriology, and Entomology
- Minimum 4 years' experience in laboratory environment and practices
- A demonstrated ability to design experiments and do careful and meticulous experimentation
- Strong analytical skills with the ability to analyze complex data sets and critically evaluate scientific research results
- Good interpersonal skills
- Superior organizational skills to use time productively, maximize efficiencies, and meet deadlines
- Strong written communication skills, including experience in writing comprehensive reports, and proposals
- Works well in a team environment
- Proficiency in MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and graphical software (i.e. Sigma Plot)
- Proficiency in statistical data analyses using software packages (including, but not limited to R, SAS, JMP, Sigma Plot and Systat)

Location: Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Salary: Commensurate with experience.

How to Apply: Qualified and interested candidates may submit a cover letter and resume by email to **admin@bioforest.ca** no later than **September 29 2017**.