



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education, and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

Postdoctoral Research Associate Positions (2): Entomology, Insect-Vectored Plant Pathogens, Chemical Ecology

Location: USDA-ARS Temperate Tree Fruit and Vegetable Research Unit in Wapato, WA

Salary: \$69,107 USD (GS-11) plus health and retirement benefits

	Position 1	Position 2
Position Summary	The Potato Insect Research Lab is seeking a Postdoctoral Research Associate who will be responsible for providing expertise in insect-plant-pathogen interactions and working collaboratively with the laboratory's lead scientist and research technicians. This position will be expected to perform greenhouse and laboratory transmission assays and to use an electropenetrograph (EPG) and EthoVision to conduct behavioral assays. The goal of the project is to help identify effective, reduced-risk, management options for insect-vectored pathogens of potatoes. <i>Position has potential to extend up to three years, with continuation contingent upon performance.</i>	The Chemical Ecology Research Lab is hiring a Postdoctoral Research Associate that will conduct research to understand tritrophic interactions between X-disease phytoplasma, leafhopper vectors, and host and non-host plants. The project will include volatile sampling and analyses of cherry and weedy plants, and behavioral assays with leafhopper vectors. The cherry industry in the PNW is facing an outbreak of X-disease, which is an incurable disease caused by a phytoplasma. The disease results in small, unmarketable fruit and can eventually cause tree death. The goal of the project is to understand leafhopper vector behavior and how it may be influenced by X-disease phytoplasma.
Education and Experience	This position requires a PhD in Entomology, Plant Pathology, or related discipline with advanced training and/or professional experience conducting research related to insect-vectored plant pathogen management, as well as a publication record. Experience using electropenetrography (EPG) and/or EthoVision in behavioral assays is strongly preferred.	This position requires a Ph.D in Ecology, Entomology, Plant biology, Plant Pathology, or a related field. Experience in conducting insect behavior assays and analyses of plant volatiles, is strongly preferred. Experience with insect colony care and plant care (in a greenhouse) is highly desirable.
Other Requirements	This position is only open to U.S. citizens and nationals able to pass a federal background check. Willing to obtain pesticide applicator's license.	This position is only open to U.S. citizens and nationals able to pass a federal background check.
Contact	Dr. Gina Angelella - Research Entomologist gina.angelella@usda.gov (509) 454-4462	Dr. Jackie Serrano - Research Entomologist jacqueline.serrano@usda.gov (509) 454-4461