



TREE FRUIT PHYSIOLOGY - SUMMER RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- Job Title:** Horticultural Summer Research Assistant – Tree Fruit
- Period:** April 28 – August 29, 2025
- No. of Positions:** 2
- Education:** Presently enrolled in a College or University degree in a B.Sc.(Agr) or BSc. Program. Preference will be given to those with those studying horticulture and who have experience in horticultural and/or agriculture.
- Hours:** 37.5 hrs/wk
- Rate:** Commensurate with education and experience and will follow the standard rates as outlined by the Department of Plant Agriculture
- Web:** www.plant.uoguelph.ca/treefruit/

The Department of Plant Agriculture, Pomology Research Program based at the Simcoe Research Station is now accepting applications for a research assistant to conduct research-related tasks in the tree fruit physiology research programme based at its research facility in Simcoe. This research program involves projects in tree canopy management, rootstocks, crop load management, cider apple cultivar evaluation, and methods to improve fruit quality and to control cropping. Our team works together with other University faculty and OMAFRA extension educators to address orchard management issues that impact the tree fruit industry. Through our research we provide knowledge to improve fruit quality and economic sustainability to the Ontario tree fruit industry.

The successful candidate will be responsible for maintaining plots, collecting data, data entry, taking growth and yield measurements, tree training and pruning, hand-thinning fruit, and harvesting fruit. Computer spreadsheet and word processing skills are an asset. The candidate will report daily to the program technicians.

Hours of work will be Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Due to the nature of outside work, hours may vary slightly from the norm (earlier start and earlier finish on hot days, for example), but total hours worked per week will be 37.5 hours/week. Some weekend work may be required. A valid full G driver's license with clean abstract is required for operation

of licenced station vehicles. All relevant safety training will be provided (Health and Safety, WHMIS, Lab Safety, Farm Safety etc.). CSA approved safety footwear, to be supplied by the successful candidates, is required for this position.

The successful candidates will be involved in most aspects of the field and laboratory program and have daily contact with the research technicians, and less frequent contact with faculty and graduate students conducting work at Simcoe. Constructive feedback will be provided to hone the candidates' core research skills for future study.

Anticipated Learning:

- Research and experimental design
- Data collection techniques, data entry and verification
- Some basic laboratory skills and equipment
- Maintenance of the research orchard (apple and peach trees)
- Harvesting experience

If you have questions or require further information, please contact: Dr. John Cline. Application deadline January 17, 2025 (5 pm) or until a suitable candidate is found. Please email a cover letter and resume to Prof. John Cline, University of Guelph, Department of Plant Agriculture, Simcoe, Ontario N3Y 4N5 Tel: (519) 426-7127 Email: jcline@uoguelph.ca.

Should you apply for this position, please understand that only candidate(s) selected for an interview will be contacted. This position has also posted to select students on the University of Guelph Career Services website <https://experienceguelph.ca/>.

University of Guelph, Department of Plant Agriculture, Simcoe, Ontario N3Y 4N5 [Tel: (519) 426-7127 ext. 331 Email: jcline@uoguelph.ca].

Skills for Success

(The following skills are essential for individual and organizational success)

SKILLS

EXAMPLES OF DEMONSTRATED BEHAVIOR

Inclusiveness

- Shows respect for differences in backgrounds, lifestyles, viewpoints, and needs in reference to areas such as ethnicity, race, gender, creed, and sexual orientation
- Promotes cooperation and a welcoming environment for all
- Works to understand the perspectives brought by all individuals
- Pursues knowledge of diversity and inclusiveness

Adaptability

- Is flexible, open and receptive to new ideas and approaches
- Adapts to changing priorities, situations and demands
- Handles multiple tasks and priorities
- Modifies one's preferred way of doing things

Self-Development

- Enhances personal knowledge, skills, and abilities
- Anticipates and adapts to technological advances as needed
- Seeks opportunities for continuous learning
- Seeks and acts upon performance feedback

Communication

- Demonstrates the ability to express thoughts clearly, both orally and in writing
- Demonstrates effective listening skills
- Shares knowledge and information
- Asks questions and offers input for positive results

Teamwork

- Builds working relationships to solve problems and achieve common goals
- Demonstrates sensitivity to the needs of others
- Offers assistance, support, and feedback to others
- Works effectively and cooperatively with others

Service-Minded

- Is approachable/accessible to others
- Reaches out to be helpful in a timely and responsive manner
- Is diplomatic, courteous, and welcoming

Stewardship

- Demonstrates accountability in all work responsibilities
- Exercises sound and ethical judgment when acting on behalf of the university
- Exercises appropriate confidentiality in all aspects of work
- Shows commitment to work and to consequences of own actions

Motivation

- Shows initiative, anticipates needs and takes actions
- Demonstrates innovation, creativity and informed risk-taking
- Engages in problem-solving; suggests ways to improve performance and be more efficient
- Strives to achieve individual, unit, and university goals

<p>Responsibilities: list the position's assigned responsibilities and estimate percentage of annual time spent on each responsibility. Include only the essential functions that are fundamental and necessary to the position.</p>	
Task	Approximate % of time
<p><u>Data Collection:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to research plots on and off station. • Frequently requires tedious counting and measurements of apples, buds, flowers, fruitlets, fruit, and trees. • Conduct various laboratory procedures using specified equipment 	60%
<p><u>Technical Support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical support to carrying out research activities that will ultimately enhance the profitability and sustainability of the tree fruit industry in Ontario. • Help team members set up and maintain plots as needed for field research. • Assist with crop harvests, measuring, and recording yields. • Transport samples to storage sites or research facilities for further analysis. • Assist in other fieldwork and projects in commercial fruit farms as needed. • Other duties and responsibilities as assigned. 	40%
<p><u>Data Management:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data entry into Excel spreadsheets. • Utilize simple data analysis using Excel or other basic statistics software. 	10%
Total	100 %