

POSITION(S)

Box Tree Moth Program - PPQ Technician - GS 4
European Cherry Fruit Fly Program - PPQ Technician - GS 4

Letters of Authority (Limited Appointment/ Temporary positions)— **Full Time**

(Part Time or Intermittent may be available under special circumstances)

LOCATION(s)

Positions are available in the following New York locality:

- Lockport - Multiple Positions
- Penfield - Multiple Positions

SALARY

Determined based on education, locality, and experience.

- Lockport: \$16.82 / Hour
- Penfield: \$16.14 / Hour

WHO MAY APPLY

This announcement is open to all United States citizens.

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT

This is a Letter of Authority Appointment (AKA: Limited Appointment) lasting up to 180 days per service year (12 months). Positions can be extended for additional years, but no more than 180 days may be worked per service year.

OVERVIEW

APHIS is a multi-faceted Agency with a broad mission area that includes protecting and promoting U.S. agricultural health, regulating genetically engineered organisms, administering the Animal Welfare Act and carrying out wildlife damage management activities. These efforts support the overall mission of USDA, which is to protect and promote food, agriculture, natural resources and related issues. Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) is a program within APHIS which safeguards U.S. agriculture and natural resources against the entry, establishment, and spread of economically and environmentally significant pests, and facilitates the safe trade of agricultural products. Join our team and gain valuable experience working in the field to stop this invasive species from harming our nation's agriculture.

Find a link to the PPQ website here and learn more about our programs:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/hungry-pests/ecff/cherry-fruit-fly> and

DUTIES

The incumbent is responsible for performing recurring survey and regulatory functions. Makes field identifications of host material and plant pests involved. Demonstrates familiarity with habits of insect pests and host plants. More specifically, the incumbent:

Works as part of a team who inspects and surveys properties for the presence of harmful insects, plant and plant diseases. Properties inspected include, but are not limited to, farms, nurseries, orchards, fields, wooded areas, commercial and industrial sites, product packing and processing stations, roadsides or other locations that may harbor pests or host plants. Assists higher graded technicians in determining the presence and degree of infestation through means including visual survey, sample collection, and trapping. Takes samples of collected pests and targeted host materials. Draws map of the property by hand and transfers information to I-pad. Contacts landowners to inform them they have targeted host material and seeks permission to set traps. Per an established schedule, collects samples from traps. Maintains or services traps. Maintains daily log and pertinent notes.

Collects data and maintains daily records associated with survey work and regulatory procedures. Prepares reports on activities and accomplishments within assigned area. Maintains daily vehicle use and service records. Prepares maps used in connection with survey activities.

With oversight from a Plant Health Safeguarding Specialist or designee, the Technician gives instructions as to the establishments and areas to be inspected; procedures to be followed; provides current information on new methods, procedures and techniques; and possible problems that might be encountered. The supervisor occasionally accompanies the incumbent to observe work techniques to assure compliance to established procedures and completeness of work. Reports are also reviewed for completeness and consistency. Unusual problems are referred to supervisor for assistance or resolution.

Attends daily meetings at the end of each work day as appropriate.

Contacts landowners, tenants, managers, farmers, nurserymen, orchardists, camp grounds, representatives of private industry, etc., relative to securing written permission to conduct surveys and enforce quarantine regulations. Advises growers and shippers about programs and regulations, encouraging increased participation in the programs, etc. In some situations, provides specifics on the chemicals being used. Provides Q&A fact sheet as appropriate.

Additional outreach includes schools, 4H clubs, job fairs, county fairs, AgDiscovery and other venues. Reaches out to local businesses to request them to hang informational flyers.

Operates a motor vehicle and other equipment necessary to carry out the assigned work.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Males born after 12/31/59 must be registered with the selective service.

Must have a valid driver's license.

Must be able to work alone and/or in teams in remote locations.

Must possess or be able to learn basic insect pest and tree identification skills.

Must be able to travel overnight occasionally.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

GS-4: Six months general experience & six months specialized experience OR successful completion of 2 years of study that included at least 8 semester hours in courses listed below OR a combination of experience and education.

Courses: Biology, Plant Pathology, Entomology, Zoology, Botany, Forestry, Chemistry, Agriculture, or Physics.

General Experience: (1) Any type of work that demonstrates the applicant's ability to perform the work of the position, or (2) experience that provided a familiarity with the subject matter or processes of the broad subject area of the occupation.

Specialized Experience:

GS-4 — Inspecting nursery plants for the presence of a specific plant pest. Surveying areas for specific plant pests or for the presence of alternate plant hosts. Developing rough maps showing control or eradication treatment completed, areas surveyed, or pest finds located. Performing survey control or eradication procedures in a local pest control program. Answering questions regarding plant pest control procedures, harmful side-effects of pesticides to other living organisms, etc. Inspecting vehicles in the enforcement of plant quarantine regulations. Performing laboratory work involved with raising and/or sterilizing various insects.

HOW TO APPLY & REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION:

Please mail or email all required documents to the address provided below.

Required documents:

- [Application Cover Sheet](#)
- Current Resume:
 - For each position you've held, provide name of Position, Title, Company Name, Dates (mo/yr), number of hours worked per week, salary/hourly rate, summary of duties and responsibilities
 - And, provide at least three references.
- Official or unofficial college transcripts (if applicable)
- Completed and signed Declaration for Federal Employment ([Form OF 306](#))

Mailing Address:

USDA, APHIS, PPQ
Attn. Hiring Department
801 Richfield Street
Building A
Lockport, NY 14094

Email: PPQ.ECFF@aphis.usda.gov

VETERAN PREFERENCE

When applying for federal jobs, eligible Veterans should claim preference for 5pt (TP), 10pt (CP/CPS/XP), or for Sole Survivor Preference (SSP) in the questionnaire. You must:

- Provide a legible copy of your DD-214(s) which shows dates and character of service (honorable, general, etc.).
- If you are currently serving on active duty and expect to be released or discharged within 120 days you must submit documentation related to your active duty service which reflects the dates of service, character of service (honorable, general, etc.), and dates of impending separation.
- Additionally, disabled veterans and others eligible for 10-point preference (such as widows or mothers of eligible Veterans) must also submit a SF-15 "Application for 10 Point Veteran Preference" with required proof as stated on the form.
- Documentation is required to award preference.

For more information on Veterans' Preference, please visit: <https://www.fedshirevets.gov/job-seekers/veterans/veterans-preference/>

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION POLICY

Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process should contact the hiring agency directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

A reasonable accommodation is any change to a job, the work environment, or the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job duties or receive equal access to job benefits.

Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodations when:

- An applicant with a disability needs an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job.
- An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace.
- An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events.

COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement

To ensure compliance with an applicable nationwide preliminary injunction, which may be supplemented, modified, or vacated, depending on the course of ongoing litigation, the Federal Government will take no action to implement or enforce the COVID-19 vaccination requirement pursuant to Executive Order 14043 on Requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination for Federal Employees. Therefore, to the extent a Federal job announcement includes the requirement that applicants must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 pursuant to Executive Order 14043, that requirement does not currently apply. Federal agencies may request information regarding the vaccination status of selected applicants for the purposes of implementing other workplace safety protocols, such as protocols related to masking, physical distancing, testing, travel, and quarantine.