

# **Blueberry Breeding Research Associate | Driscoll's | Watsonville, CA**

## **About the Role**

The Blueberry Breeding Research Associate supports the blueberry breeding team by assisting in year-round data collection. Responsibilities include phenotyping of blueberry germplasm and seedling populations in fields, greenhouses, and laboratories for horticultural, physiological, pathological, and post-harvest traits. This position will support the Molecular Blueberry Breeder in efforts to develop marker-assisted selection strategies for efficient blueberry breeding. They will use their knowledge of blueberries to work independently on phenotyping projects, including developing phenotyping scales, keeping organized records of data collected, maintaining communication with collaborators in other departments, and summarizing their work in written reports. In addition, this position may assist in pre-breeding crosses, test plot logistics, data entry, reports, guided data analysis, and execution of related research projects. This position will be part of the global blueberry breeding team and is expected to provide assistance to other blueberry breeding locations as needed.

## **Responsibilities**

- Responsible for phenotyping of commercial and wild blueberry germplasm, at test plots, in the field, greenhouse, and/or laboratory.
- Work as a part of the blueberry breeding team to conduct independent evaluations of hybrid seedlings and selections for horticultural characteristics, encompassing field ratings, yield, shelf life, and flavor.
- Assist the global blueberry team in streamlined data collection by writing Standard Operating Procedures and communicating with the Information Services team to ensure data integrity.
- Operation of instruments to measure plant and fruit quality traits.
- Responsible for accurate and timely data entry of phenotypic data.
- Work with the molecular blueberry breeder to collect tissue and phenotypes in the development of molecular markers.
- Work collaboratively with staff from Plant Pathology, Entomology, Postharvest, Physiology, Chemistry, and Sensory labs to implement phenotyping techniques.
- Assist in test plot logistics: Mapping, labeling, plant movement, database proof-reading.
- Preparation of plants and fruit for experiments.
- Act as a team member for the Blueberry Breeding Group. Consult and provide input to other colleagues.
- Exhibit Driscoll's values of passion, humility and trustworthiness in all interactions. Works well in a team environment by supporting fairness, a strong work ethic, accountability to the team and leading by examples. Utilize team building and communication skills to create strong department and company alignment.
- Follow company policies and practices while representing Driscoll's in an ethical and business-like manner in all interactions with employees, government agencies, growers, etc.
- Ensure the safekeeping of propriety varieties and confidential information.
- Maintain a safe and professional office and other work-related areas.

## **Qualifications**

- A Bachelor's or Master's degree in plant science, agriculture, biology, or related fields is required (compensation will be commensurate with experience).
- Experience with Excel and statistical software is desirable.
- Candidates must be disciplined, self-motivated, detail-oriented, and have good verbal communication in English.
- This position requires the candidate to work independently and as part of a team and collaborate with other scientists in achieving team goals.
- Must be able to work in field and agricultural settings.
- A driver's license valid in California is required and a valid passport and the ability to travel internationally without restrictions is required.

## **Preferred Qualifications**

- Hands-on experience in plant breeding, phenotyping, bioinformatics, horticulture, plant pathology, or molecular biology is desired.
- Experience with statistical analysis.
- Lab experience is a plus.
- A valid passport and the ability to travel internationally without restrictions.

**To Apply,** Please include a cover letter with your resume submission. Link to job posting:

<https://www.driscolls.com/about/careers/job?id=R0004214&returnUrl=%2Fabout%2Fcareers>