

JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

1. Job title: Assistant Plant Pathologist	Job Group: Technical
C&A, Plant Pathology group	Reports to: Specialist

<p>2. Main function of job (Note: In addition to these functions employees are required to carry out such other duties as may reasonably be required)</p> <p>Responsibility for, and assistance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing and maintaining specialist pathology field trials in collaboration with other staff at NIAB • Producing, preparing and applying pathogen inoculum • Assessing trials and processing results, collating data • Carrying out tests with plant pathogens in glasshouses and controlled environments • Assisting with research projects, including work requiring molecular biology skills <p>The work will involve a number of crop plant species and different pathogens, and planning own workloads within a set of project requirements will be an important feature of the post.</p> <p>The role is varied, but applicants must have an aptitude for field experimentation.</p>
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<p>3. Financial authority/responsibility Responsibility for small consumable purchases, up to £200</p>

<p>4. Key relationships (external and internal):</p> <p>Internal –other plant pathology staff, field team staff</p> <p>External – visitors to trials eg breeders</p>

5. Tasks and responsibilities		
Duties / responsibilities (in order of priority) (add rows as required)	% of time	Level of responsibility
Setting up of pathology tests in glasshouses, growth rooms, lab and the field, production of pathogen inoculum	30	High
Support for research projects, planning and carrying out field and laboratory experiments	35	High
Assessment of tests and trials in field and controlled environments	20	Medium
Data handling and collation	10	Medium
Other (eg car custodian)	5	Medium

<p>6. Working conditions :</p> <p>Approximately 45% laboratory, controlled environment, glasshouse and office, and approximately 55% outdoors in the field. Field work can be physically demanding over relatively short periods. There is exposure to pollen and spores and to all types of weather conditions, and to spores in laboratory and CE situations,. The role will involve some travel to distant sites and with very occasional overnight stays away from the Cambridge base. A willingness to drive cars and light vans is essential and the applicant must hold a full valid driving licence. There is an occasional requirement to handle agrochemicals (herbicides, fungicides and insecticides) and use hand held knapsack sprayers for which full training will be given. Some limited evening and weekend working will be required at peak periods. Overtime pay or time off in lieu is available. Annual leave is not allowed during peak workload periods, normally from end of May to beginning of July.</p>
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7. PERSON SPECIFICATION

Education/Qualifications:

Essential:	Desirable:
BSc in Plant or Crop related Sciences	Some postgraduate plant/crop related work experience is desirable, however, this is not essential

Experience:

Essential:	Desirable:
Some experience of plant pathology, particularly culturing organisms and/or inoculating plants, general ability to recognise disease symptoms	Knowledge of host-pathogen interactions and/or basic understanding of UK arable crop production systems.
Some basic laboratory capability in molecular biology	
Full competency with Microsoft Office	

Specialist Training:

Essential:	Desirable:
	PA1 and PA6 knapsack sprayer qualifications are required, and appropriate training and official testing will be provided if necessary

Personal Qualities (skills, behaviours and competencies)

Essential:	Desirable:
Ability to organise own time effectively	Good written communication skills
Attention to detail and record keeping	
Observational skills, ability to note unusual occurrences	
Ability to work within a team as well as an individual	

Date of description:

24th July 2020

Compiled by: J E Thomas

