

# BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN

Biological Technicians are responsible for helping and supporting conservationist and environmental scientists in laboratory research on the life cycles of living organisms.

## WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES WILL I HAVE?

- Conduct field sampling of the air, water and soil, crops, fruits, vegetables and/or ornamentals
- Evaluate samples for methods to improve yield, quality, adaptation to mechanization, climate, and pest
- Control exotic invasive plants through the use of chemical, mechanical, manual and biological methods
- Taking inventory and quantifying sources of locally-generated pollution
- Preparing reports of lab results for internal and external use
- Classify products and compare test results with standard tables
- Order supplies needed for daily laboratory processes and activities
- Use standard pesticide application and biological control field and safety equipment as required
- Examine samples and identify, if any, bacterial or non-desirable excess material
- Prepare graphs, charts and reports from test results
- Ability to operate laboratory equipment independently
- Perform quality control analysis including tests and inspections of products and processes
- May assist conservationist/conservation officers in special or emergency situations as needed (prescribed fire, search and rescue)



## WHAT EDUCATION & TRAINING IS REQUIRED?

Associate's or Bachelor's degree in natural resources, soil science, biology, horticulture, or plant physiology

## THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES ARE RECOMMENDED...

Agricultural education, biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, botany and mathematics

## TYPICAL EMPLOYERS

Agricultural research firms, government organizations, environmental and conservation organizations, food processing organizations, college and universities

## FUTURE JOB MARKET/OUTLOOK



## SUGGESTED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

- American Institute of Biological Sciences
- American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- American Society for Nutritional Sciences

## AVERAGE ANNUAL FULL-TIME SALARY

\$43,000