

Seasonal technicians in entomology/agroecology at Purdue University (Indiana)

Context

The Kaplan lab (<https://www.entm.purdue.edu/ecolab/>) in the Department of Entomology at Purdue University (<https://aq.purdue.edu/department/entm/>) is offering an exciting opportunity to gain entomological experience in agricultural systems! We are looking for three full-time, seasonal technicians from April/May to September/October 2023 to work on multiple projects focusing on pest management, crop pollination, and insect biodiversity. Tasks include collecting data in the field (e.g., pollinator surveys) and laboratory work (e.g., processing traps, pinning insects, gut content analysis, data entry). Applicants must have a flexible schedule and the ability to work early mornings and weekends. You may sometimes be expected to stay overnight at out-of-state sites (field locations span Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa). All travel expenses will be covered. At in-state sites, you may be expected to drive on your own and carry out tasks unsupervised (vehicle will be provided or gas expenses reimbursed).

Pay rate will be \$18 per hour.

To apply, please submit a copy of your CV, cover letter, and contact information for two references to Zeus Mateos (zmateosf@purdue.edu).

Duties may include

- Carry out surveys catching pollinators and natural enemies with an insect net
- Scout commercial watermelon fields identifying main pests and their abundance.
- Infest watermelon plants with spider mites and monitor development of leaf damage over the season.
- Set up and collect sticky, pitfall, and pan traps.
- Bag and hand pollinate crop blossoms.
- Harvest and record fruit set and weight for a variety of specialty crops.

Requirements

Essential

- Undergraduate degree in Biology/Entomology/Ecology/Agriculture (completed or pending)
- Valid driver's license
- Ability to identify pollinators, natural enemies, and pests – training will be provided
- Flexible working hours
- Accuracy in recording field data
- Ability to work independently
- Committed, motivated, and enthusiastic
- Versatile in performing different tasks
- Willingness to work outdoors in hot weather

Desirable

- Experience with ecological surveys
- Familiarity with acoustic monitoring
- Ability to pin insects
- Experience with DNA extraction, PCR, and metabarcoding techniques