



## Nursery Inspector

**Position Title:** Nursery Inspector (Agricultural Technician I)

**Agency:** Department of Entomology, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES)

**Duty Location:** New Haven, Connecticut

### Position Overview

The Department of Entomology at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is recruiting for a full-time Nursery Inspector in a **regulatory, non-research** position. The position provides inspection, monitoring, and reporting services to licensed nurseries, green industry operations, and the public within the State of Connecticut.

### Essential Duties

The duties listed below are illustrative of the position and are not intended to be exhaustive. Duties may be assigned or modified in accordance with operational needs.

- Conduct regulatory inspections of plant production, storage, and distribution sites to detect regulated plant pests and pathogens.
- Identify plants and plant materials and recognize symptoms associated with insects, diseases, and other plant disorders at the field level.
- Collect samples and document inspection findings in accordance with established protocols.
- Enter inspection, survey, and compliance data into agency databases and maintain required records.
- Participate in survey, delimitation, and emergency response activities related to newly detected or regulated pests and diseases.
- Inspect agricultural commodities and plant materials intended for interstate or international movement to ensure regulatory compliance.
- Participate in ground-based and aerial visual surveys of forested and agricultural lands.
- Prepare written reports, summaries, and correspondence related to inspection and survey activities.
- Ability to perform fieldwork that includes extended walking or driving, lifting materials up to 40 pounds, and working outdoors in varying weather conditions, with or without reasonable accommodation.
- Provide factual information regarding plant pest regulations and inspection findings to regulated entities and stakeholders.

- Assist with outreach and education activities, including preparation of informational materials and presentations, as assigned.
- Perform related duties in support of CAES programs as required.

## **Supervision**

This position reports to the State Entomologist or designee and works in accordance with established policies, procedures, and regulatory guidelines.

## **Employment Conditions**

This is a permanent, full-time position (35 work hours per week) in the unclassified service of the State of Connecticut. The starting annual salary is \$53,277, subject to state payroll rules and collective bargaining agreements. The position includes state-administered medical, dental, retirement, leave, and holiday benefits. Job offer is contingent upon the successful completion of a background check, including motor vehicle check, per GL 115.

## **Minimum Qualifications**

- Applicants must meet the minimum qualifications at the time of application.
- Bachelor's degree in horticulture, entomology, forestry, plant pathology, or a closely related field.
- Two (2) years of experience in horticulture, plant production, plant pests, or plant diseases. Experience may be gained through employment, internships, or research.
- Experience with data collection or recordkeeping through academic or professional activities.
- Experience interacting with members of the public in a professional setting.
- Experience with Microsoft Office products such as Excel, Word, and Powerpoint
- Possession of a current, valid motor vehicle operator's license at the time of appointment.

## **Preferred Qualifications**

- Master's degree in horticulture, entomology, forestry, plant pathology, or a closely related field.
- Experience in preparing written inspection reports and maintaining accurate records.
- Experience making geographical content using ESRI GIS software
- Experience performing work assignments independently in accordance with established procedures and timelines.

## **Application Instructions**

Applicants must submit the following materials in a single combined PDF file:

- Cover letter outlining interest in the position and relevant qualifications
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Educational transcripts (with dates of attendance omitted or redacted)
- Names and contact information for three professional references

Application materials must be emailed to **Jacob Ricker, State Entomologist**, Department of Entomology, at **Jacob.Ricker@ct.gov**. Please include the job title "**Nursery Inspector**" in the subject line of the email. Applications received by **February 28, 2025** will receive full consideration.

## **Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Statement**

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, ancestry, color, criminal record (as permitted by law), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other status protected by state or federal law.

Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation or alternative means of communication to participate in the application or selection process may contact the Chief of Services, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.