

Soil Ecology & Plant Disease Laboratory Assistant

Advertisement for Technician 1 – Step 1 in the Applied Soil Ecology Lab
Department of Soil Science, University of Manitoba, Canada



The Applied Soil Ecology Lab, based out of the Department of Soil Science, University of Manitoba and under the leadership of Dr. Mario Tenuta, has highly productive and impactful research programs with several important foci: soil ecology, nematology, and the relationship between nutrient management and greenhouse gas emissions. The Soil Ecology Research Program includes projects examining yield losses from Potato Early Die Complex, a disease complex caused by the fungus *Verticillium* and root-lesion nematode *Pratylenchus*, surveys of the Canadian Prairie Provinces for the presence of the parasitic soybean cyst nematode, and projects to identify host and environmental preferences, yield damage, and control strategies of plant-parasitic nematodes, including *Pratylenchus* and *Ditylenchus*.

Please see www.soilecology.ca for more information on the Applied Soil Ecology Lab, including its personnel, projects, facilities, and a photo gallery.

Job Description

Requirements: High school diploma; highly motivated; organized; able to follow complex instructions and pay attention to detail; good critical thinking skills; can work independently and in a group; excellent verbal and written communication skills; good manual dexterity; able to sit or stand for long periods; prepared for manual labour and strenuous outdoor activity over rough terrain; able to lift and carry 20kg.

Assets: College diploma or university degree; previous lab experience (position / starting salary may be adjusted to reflect the successful applicant's education and/or experience).

Duties and Responsibilities: Work conditions are in a laboratory setting. Duties: assist graduate students and senior technicians in laboratory studies; count and identify soil organisms using compound and dissecting microscopes; make culture media and reagent solutions; weigh and extract soils; potentially basic molecular biology analyses such as PCR, qPCR, and gel electrophoresis. Other duties as required. The successful applicant reports daily to the Biology Lab Director.

Skills and Experience Gained: Accomplishing goal-oriented tasks under time constraints with and without direct supervision; trouble-shooting and problem solving; microscopy; introduction to microbiology and molecular biology lab techniques; experience handling chemicals.

Supervisor: Professor Mario Tenuta, Applied Soil Ecology Lab, Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences

Job Terms

Position: Casual Technician 1, Step 1 or greater

Starting Salary: \$17.23/hr or greater

Start/End Date: ASAP to March 31, 2023

Schedule: Casual (35 hrs/week, Monday through Friday)

Location: Ellis Bldg, UM and occasional day trips to rural field sites

How to Apply

Application method: E-mail

Required application materials: (1) Cover letter, (2) resumé, (3) copy of high school diploma or college diploma / university degree (if the latter, please indicate the program in your cover letter), and (4) the names and contact information of three references who have agreed to be contacted.

Notification process: email all application materials to Soil.Ecology@umanitoba.ca, c/o Fernanda Gouvea, Applied Soil Ecology Lab Biology Program Director; use "Soil Ecology tech" as the subject line.

The University of Manitoba is strongly committed to equity and diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from women, racialized persons, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, persons of all sexual and gender identities, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. All qualified Indigenous candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Indigenous Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority.

If you require accommodation supports during the recruitment process, please contact UM.Accommodation@umanitoba.ca or 204-474-7195. Please note this contact information is for accommodation reasons only.

Application materials, including letters of reference, will be handled in accordance with the protection of privacy provisions of "The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy" (Manitoba). Please note that resumes will be provided to participating members of the search process.