



Orchard Technician – Student Posting

Grow your career with VSOC

Are you looking for an opportunity to apply what you've learned in the classroom to a company focused on innovation, safety, and professional growth?

As a summer student working at the Vernon Seed Orchard Company (VSOC) you will be given the opportunity to cultivate your skills and knowledge in a collaborative team-based environment. You will gain valuable knowledge of the seed improvement industry and the process of producing A-class seed; you will participate in pollen collection, processing and application; enhance your orchard pest and disease identification skills; and fine-tune your **leadership skills by supervising picking crews** to safely and efficiently harvest cone crops.

Role and Accountability

Reporting to the Operations Supervisor, the Orchard Technician assists in a broad range of activities related to orchard operations and crew management. The Orchard Technician role is a “hands on” position; daily responsibilities include activities that support the overall health of each orchard.

Major Responsibilities

As the Orchard Tech, your focus is on three key deliverables:

Orchard Operations

- Assists in pollen collection and processing for future application (SMP) in orchards.
- Leads and assists in assigned areas of cone harvesting (supervising crews, providing safety training, etc.).
- Maintains open and professional communication with colleagues and supervised employees.
- Monitors the health and vigour of orchard ramets and assists in their development through maintenance and pest monitoring.
- Assists in the planting of new orchards and ensures accurate deployment of families.
- Maintains ramet health by ensuring proper growth and protection in all weather and seasons.
- Assists in the maintenance and health of grafted families in the field and nursery.
- Ensures compound watering and mowing schedule is completed on a weekly basis.

Record Keeping/Data Collection

- Assists in the coordination and recording of pollen and cone surveys.

- Compiles organized records of orchard maintenance and pest surveys to ensure orchard databases are current and relevant.

Safety

- Complies with all VSOC Environmental Policies and Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines.
- Organizes and maintains an orderly and safe work area.
- Actively promotes and models safe working practices, participates in safety training, WHMIS and safety meetings.

The Orchard Technician may be required to periodically work at our orchard in Quesnel, BC. Any out-of-town work will be scheduled in advance with ample notification of plans. The responsibilities described above are designed to outline the focus of the role but does not limit the activities that the Orchard Technician may be asked to perform.