

Data collection assistant Job Description

Position:	Data collection support for beneficial insect study
Hours:	9-12 hours per week, depending on start date
Duration:	May - August 2019 Approximately 140 hours total
Wages:	\$20/hour

Wild Bee Project (WBP/Laura Horn) is engaged in a 3-year USDA grant project to evaluate hedgerows (=permanent linear plantings of shrubs/grasses/perennials) on urban/suburban farms for "natural" pest control. WBP is working with several farmers growing kale to assess dominant beneficial (predator) insects and population growth of cabbage aphids.

WBP is currently monitoring recently planted hedgerows on several farms and aphid levels on overwintered kale. As of mid-April, new kale starts are being planted outdoors, and I am looking for assistance at several farms 1) scouting for cabbage aphid, 2) identifying, counting, and collecting beneficial insects (targets = ladybug, syrphid fly, lacewing, and parasitoid wasp), and 3) assessing flowering and sheltering habitat for beneficial insects. This is an exploratory/preliminary study with little baseline data available. A candidate with prior knowledge or a strong interest in insects or organic vegetable farming is preferred.

I am interested in sustainable organic farming and whether planting for beneficial insects can work economically for urban vegetable growers. WBP helps farmers attract more beneficial insects (including pollinators) to their farms with grants to establish permanent habitat, and leads public workshops about bees and "bee gardening." My background is in wild/native bees and pollination.

Applicant must have ability to:

Drive/ get to farms in a reasonable timeframe to complete necessary tasks

Differentiate between wasp, bee, and fly in the field

Work independently, "self-start," and problem solve in the field

Think analytically and objectively

Consistently and accurately manage data (counting) tasks in the field and data entry/organization on a spreadsheet

Physical demands and working conditions:

Walking, stooping, crouching, kneeling, and scanning complex vegetation for insects in bright sunlight.

This support position includes working on farms independently to complete data collection tasks and reporting to Laura Horn/Manager. Assistant is expected to work closely and communicate regularly with Laura to complete all tasks. Assistant must be adaptable to different outdoor working environments in mostly hot, sunny conditions.

Essential Job Duties and Responsibilities:

Transporting self to farms in Salt Lake City, Murray, West Jordan, and Kaysville to collect data

Counting aphids on kale according to protocol

Differentiating and counting beneficial insects on kale according to protocol

Pinning and labelling insects

Respectful, friendly interactions with farmers

Nice to have:

Ability to ID ladybugs and syrphid flies from photos or using keys and a microscope, if necessary

Ability to ID flowering plants (common shrubs, perennials, annuals)

Basic entomological knowledge and observational skills to efficiently explore different landscapes to find insects

Training:

Biological Sciences major preferred.

Send resume to: wildbeeproject@gmail.com (Laura Horn)