



Christmas Tree Specialist

Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc. is the province's technical development agency focused solely on the advancement of province's agriculture and seafood sectors. Our highly skilled and collaborative team's mandate is to create value for the industry and the agency through the development and implementation of programs and consulting services. To assist in this effort, we are seeking a Christmas Tree Specialist based in our Bible Hill, Nova Scotia office to join our growing team of 50+ employees.

Christmas Tree Specialist

Reporting to the Manager Agricultural Services and working with the Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia (CTCNS), the Christmas Tree Specialist will provide provincial leadership and coordination in Christmas tree and greenery production. This includes professional and technical support and advisory services to Nova Scotia's Christmas tree industry including facilitating training, research and extension initiatives.

The Christmas Tree Specialist develops and delivers programming in Christmas tree production that provides advice and support for growers in making informed decisions regarding science-based, profitable, productive and environmentally sustainable best management practices.

This position works in close association with other Perennia crop specialists as well as develops and maintains links with industry, academia and federal and provincial governments.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Develop a quality standards program, that includes a strategy for the development and implementation of USDA quality standards program for Christmas trees produced and sold in Nova Scotia;
- Support an operational efficiencies audit for the sector involving a complete industry consultation to create a cost of production analysis (COP), identify best management practices (BMPs), report of recommendations to improve operating efficiencies amongst Nova Scotia Christmas tree growers;
- Develop and maintain a BMP resource for new and existing growers, highlighting opportunities for efficiencies;



- Develop a Christmas tree producer resource kit for new entrants that would include BMP's, growers' manual, soil fertility and topographical information (to support site selection), key contacts, etc.;
- Establish, curate and monitor long-term field trials on new clones and soil fertility evaluations;
- Build technical capacity in-house, leveraging existing resources at Perennia and elsewhere, to promote BMP's and support new and existing growers through a variety of touch points including phone/email/newsletters/presentations/field days/workshops, etc.

The ideal candidate will possess:

- M. Science in forestry, agriculture, or in a related discipline such as plant ecology, with two years of relevant experience, or B. Science with five years of relevant experience. Candidates with a Forest Technology or Arboriculture Diploma (or equivalent) and significant industry experience will also be considered. Commercial forestry or agriculture experience will also be considered.
- Experience in agriculture extension or adult education.
- Understanding of forestry plantation and/or agriculture productions methods, including nutrient management and plan protection BMPs (specifically integrated pest management (IMP)).
- Ability to collect, analyze and interpret COP data in a forestry or agricultural context, and to identify operational efficiencies.
- Ability to access, understand, interpret, and translate data and information from a wide variety of technical and non-technical sources, including traditional grower knowledge.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- An understanding of, and experience with field experimental methods and design, data collection and analysis.
- Demonstrated ability to lead groups, plan, implement, facilitate, teach and evaluate technical information programs. Supervisory skills would be an asset.
- Self-motivated, able to work with minimum supervision, and with the ability to quickly learn new skills and knowledge.
- Strong Microsoft Office Suite skills with an emphasis on Word, Excel and PowerPoint. GPS and mapping technologies.
- Ability to travel extensively throughout Nova Scotia and occasionally within Maritimes/Canada.



This role will be an excellent opportunity for a professional with a strong independent, positive and collaborative work ethic, and who wants to apply their skills on a wide variety of products in a client-focused environment. Perennia offers a competitive compensation package based on the candidate's skill and experience. This includes base salary, benefits, employer matching RRSP plan, flexible schedules, personal days and three weeks' vacation to start.

To apply for this exciting new position at Perennia, please email a combined PDF or Word cover letter and resume noting compensation expectations to, the Human Resources Manager at HR@perennia.ca by noon on **August 21st, 2019**.

Only e-mail applications will be accepted. Thank you to all who apply but only those granted interviews will be contacted. For more information about Perennia visit our website at www.perennia.ca.

Perennia is an Equal Opportunity Employer