



## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

### Blueberry Breeder, Program Manager

**Fall Creek Farm & Nursery®** is the world's leading blueberry nursery stock producer. We bring the best blueberry varieties to our global customers by collaborating with the world's best breeding programs and through Fall Creek's own breeding program. We have an immediate opening for an experienced professional to lead these efforts.

#### **SUMMARY:**

The Blueberry Breeder, Program Manager is responsible for the successful development of varieties for Fall Creek customers through strategic leadership of our breeding program and collaboration with other blueberry breeding programs around the world. The position will direct the Variety Development program as well as lead and manage the Research and Development (R&D) department.

This is a hands-on management level position which reports to the CEO, supervises the R&D team, and develops and manages the department budget. This position collaborates with plant breeders in USDA, University and private programs around the world and interfaces with Fall Creek's global customer base as a representative of the department. This position will coordinate efforts on-site and at various trial plots worldwide. Domestic and international travel is required.

***"Breeding is hard work, therefore you have to work hard." Dr. Paul Lyrene***

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES:** (Other duties may be assigned)

- Successful development and implementation of Fall Creek's short and long term breeding program strategies for blueberry varieties worldwide.
- Collaborates closely with leading breeders in programs around the world to trial advanced material, provide data and feedback, and influence release decisions that support Fall Creek's customer base.
- Responsible for the implementation of all phases of the breeding program including designing crosses, field evaluation and selection, post harvest fruit evaluation, and maintenance of a healthy germplasm base.
- Collection, analysis, and reporting of trial plot and post harvest data.
- Responsible for the acquisition and evaluation of new germplasm.
- Coordinates with laboratory and nursery personnel in the propagation and production of selections.
- Ensures successful trialing through support of excellent grower practices in seedling fields and trial plots.
- Develops and provides progress reports to management including recommendations for commercialization and strategic direction in keeping with the overall goals of the company.
- Assists in the development of basic cultural recommendations for new varieties to determine the most successful outcomes.
- Assists in perfection of intellectual property rights by directing patent data collection and coordinating with the New Business Department.

- Prepares budgets for the breeding program and department and tracks performance.
- Manages labor costs and efficiencies.
- Oversees Fall Creek's plant importation program, bringing outside material into the nursery.
- Plans for ongoing department needs, including labor, technology, facilities and equipment.
- Creates performance plans and conducts annual reviews with staff. Coaches and develops employees to improve job performance.
- Assures the highest level of confidentiality on sensitive matters concerning the nursery.

**REQUIRED EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND TRAINING:**

- PhD in plant breeding, plant genetics or related discipline with research specializing in plant breeding, or Masters degree and 5+ years of plant breeding experience or professional experience that indicates ability to perform required duties.
- Experience breeding with perennial crops, preferably in small fruits.
- Knowledge of traditional plant breeding methods and a working knowledge of breeding-assisted technologies.
- Demonstrated experience in supervising, developing and providing leadership to employees.
- Excellent verbal and written communications skills required. Spanish fluency a plus.
- Demonstrated ability to write and speak in English fluently.
- Computer proficiency in spreadsheets and databases.
- Ability to work as part of a team and collaborate with other scientists, breeders, and professionals in the industry in achieving goals.
- Must have a passion for breeding and a willingness to learn the blueberry industry.
- Must demonstrate professional and ethical business practices, adherence to company values, and a commitment to personal and professional development.

**TO APPLY:**

For immediate consideration, please send cover letter, resume/curriculum vitae, salary requirements and reference information to:

Trudy Hylemon  
Human Resources Manager  
[Trudyh@fallcreeknursery.com](mailto:Trudyh@fallcreeknursery.com)

Fall Creek Farm & Nursery  
39318 Jasper Lowell Road  
Lowell, OR 97452

Fall Creek Farm & Nursery offers a competitive salary and benefit package which includes health, vision, and dental insurance, bonus program, and profit sharing plan. This position requires an executed confidentiality and non-solicitation agreement upon hire.

First review date of application materials will be on or before December 10, 2010. Subsequent review dates will be based on need. All applicants must provide consent to a background check in order to continue in the selection process. All employment offers are contingent on meeting our background check standards.

Fall Creek Farm & Nursery is located in the beautiful Willamette Valley just outside of Eugene, Oregon. We have been serving the blueberry plant needs of commercial fruit growers, nursery stock growers and garden centers throughout the world since 1978. Visit us at [www.fallcreeknursery.com](http://www.fallcreeknursery.com)  
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