

# Science Technician (Weed Biocontrol)

Working within Invasive Plant and Animal Program, you will maintain insect colonies in quarantine, propagate and maintain host and test plants for insect rearing and host testing, conduct host specificity tests in quarantine, and conduct field visits to monitor the establishment and spread of released biocontrol agents, as part of ongoing weed biocontrol projects.

- Help provide cost-effective, biological control of some of Queensland's worst weeds including mother-of-millions.
- Participate in field visits to conduct experiments and collect data.
- Maintain test plants, cultures of plant feeding insects and plant pathogens and conduct host specificity tests and lifecycle studies in a quarantine.
- Assist in the preparation of technical and scientific papers, written submissions to advisory committees, and reports to external funding agencies.

## What you will do

- Maintain cultures of insects in a quarantine for biological and host specificity studies.
- Procure and maintain test plants for host specificity tests.
- Study the lifecycle and conduct host specificity tests of insects in quarantine premises.
- Participate in field visits to conduct experiments and collect data, often with limited direct supervision.
- Obtain and maintain accreditation from the Australian Government to work in a quarantine premise.
- Liaise with other project staff to maintain the quarantine and glasshouse facilities.
- Assist in the preparation of technical and scientific papers for publication in journals, written submissions to advisory committees, and reports to external funding agencies.
- Assist professional and technical staff in field research as required. This includes working in remote areas for extended periods of time either as part of a small team or independently.

### Role description

The role description gives an overview or what the job involves and how it fits within an organisation. It will often highlight the skills or experience needed to do the job.

You should refer back to the role description when considering responses to the selection criteria to ensure that you are using appropriate keywords.

### General duties and goals of the position

The details in the role overview and duties provide the context you need to customise your cover letter, resume, and selection criteria responses.

Make a note of any keywords that could be used in your selection criteria responses, particularly keywords associated with specific techniques or equipment.

You should get a sense of how well you fit the role with your existing education and work experience and judge whether you're a suitable candidate for the role.

## You'll be good at

While we're deciding if you're the right person for the job, you'll be assessed on the following capabilities that relate to the above tasks you will do:

- Achieves quality results
  - » Demonstrates personal integrity and commitment through effective planning & diligent management of available resources & work effort to deliver business priorities in accordance with endorsed business processes & standards
- Cultivates productive working relationships
  - » Builds the necessary relationships to achieve required and/or agreed operational and strategic outcomes
- Communicates clearly and effectively
  - » Develops people and organisational capability
- Applies, maintains and builds specialist expertise
  - » Applies expertise relevant to their role and takes action to develop and maintain their expertise in pest research and management (particular weeds)
- Manages operational risk effectively
  - » Undertakes appropriate systematic risk analysis and risk mitigation activity to identify, monitor and manage issues relevant to their role.

## You must also have

- The successful applicant must hold a mandatory relevant qualification (i.e. Diploma, Associate Diploma or equivalent, in a field of entomology, plant science, agricultural science or environmental science) from a recognised tertiary institution.
- A C class driver's licence.
- Quarantine Approved Premises Accreditation or the ability to acquire the accreditation.

## You might also need

- Out of hours, weekend work and intrastate/ interstate travel may be required.
- Participation in biosecurity incident responses is expected.
- Willingness to work under quarantine conditions.

### Selection criteria

The selection criteria need to be addressed directly in your job application. Some organisations require candidates to meet all selection criteria whereas others are more flexible in their assessment of candidates.

Criteria that mention 'Proven', 'Demonstrated' or 'Applied' will require an example where you have performed those tasks.

In this case, the selection criteria are labelled as "capabilities". The criteria in this job description are quite broad and will allow you to use examples from a wide range of past experiences. However, for maximum impact, you should try to describe experiences that directly relate to the items under the "What you will do" heading.

Some mandatory criteria are included - these are non-negotiable.

## What we do

The Department promotes profitable agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries and employs over 2000 people in areas including policy development, leading-edge science, biosecurity, fisheries, forestry management, trade and export. Further information is available from the department's website and our social media accounts.

The business group protects plants and animals and the environment from biosecurity threats that could jeopardise industries, economy and lifestyle. The business group has a strong state-wide operational footprint whose staff are the frontline defence against pest and disease threats to our plants and animals.

## How to apply

To apply for this role, you will need to submit the following:

- A one to two page cover letter, describing one or two activities that you've been involved with that can prove to us that you possess the key capabilities mentioned above. Your response must be no longer than two pages.
- Your current resume detailing your previous work or voluntary experience including two referees who have personally observed you displaying the key capabilities required for this role.

### Extra information

Sometimes position descriptions will contain other information that further defines what the role involves and how the person performing the job is expected to behave.

This type of information is common in government department or other large organisations with formal recruitment processes.

You're generally not expected to respond to this information but you should keep it in mind when writing your application and during an interview.

### Instructions

Ensure you follow the instructions outlined on each job advert. Don't assume that each job advert will have the same requirements.

These instructions have specified that you should include a resume and a maximum two page cover letter that addresses the capabilities found under the "You'll be good at" heading.

Rather than responding to the criteria individually, the instructions have requested that you describe two activities that involve the described capabilities. In this case, try to think of past experiences that involved several or all of the criteria and provide a detailed description of the activities.