

## **RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT - TOMATO**

### **Position Duties and Responsibilities:**

The Product Development Research Assistant is primarily responsible for planting, sampling and crossing tomato plants covered under a government contract. This position will interact with all tomato team members in research planning and delivery of project goals with seasonal and milestone deadlines.

### **Responsibilities under minimum supervision include:**

- Organizing tomato populations for planting in the field and greenhouse.
- Tissue sample collection including extensive fruit collection for shelf life and firmness phenotypic studies
- Set up cross pollinations between selected candidates
- Seed processing
- Perform germination tests for viability and segregation assays for generation advancement. Maintain inventory of research plants, seeds and crosses including pedigree and crossing information
- Implement and/or assist tomato research colleagues with specific experiments including using PCR based methods for genotyping
- Collect data from experiments and enter into appropriate repository
- Interact with growth facility colleagues for resource planning and implementation
- Interact with farm cooperators
- Periodic reports to company colleagues
- Monthly written reports to supervisor and team members.
- Assist with other projects as needed.

### **Position Requirements:**

- Minimum education-B.S. in Plant Science, Genetics, Horticulture or related field with 1-2 years direct work experience. M.S. preferred.
- Must be able to tolerate different conditions Environments will vary-greenhouse, growth chamber, lab and field.
- Research experience with agricultural crops, post harvest physiology and plant molecular biology including PCR based molecular marker systems is highly desired, especially using ABI Taqman system. Basic understanding of plant genetics and plant breeding techniques is also highly desirable.
- Familiarity with database application such as Filemaker Pro or Access and with spreadsheet applications such as Excel is highly desired.
- Ability to work weekends and holidays. Flexibility to work longer hours especially to meet seasonal deadlines. Will require occasional travel to distant work locations and professional meetings.
- Must have a valid California driver's license.
- Must be able to lift 15-20 pounds on a regular basis.