



UConn Plant Diagnostic Laboratory

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UConn Extension Summer Internships

Position title: Plant Diagnostic & Horticultural Intern

Background information: UConn's Plant Diagnostic Laboratory and UConn's Home & Garden Education Center work collaboratively to solve plant health issues for Connecticut's home gardeners, farmers, greenhouses and nurseries, landscapers, and non-profits. Together, we receive over 4,000 phone call inquiries and 700 samples per year, with the majority of samples coming into our offices during the summer months. The Plant Diagnostic & Horticultural Intern will have the exciting opportunity to work on the front lines to assist in plant diagnostics, communicate to a wide audience about plant health, and (pending additional funding) design workshops and maintain a living classroom consisting of vegetable and pollinator garden beds.

Key Responsibilities: The Plant Diagnostic & Horticultural Intern will help support the summer activities of the Plant Diagnostic Laboratory and the Home & Garden Education Center. Key areas of support will include assisting with science communication efforts and intake of plant samples submitted for diagnostic services. The intern will help to manage the social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram), write blogs for the Plant Diagnostic Website (<http://plant.lab.uconn.edu>), organize the monthly Plant Diagnostic Summary, and prepare and/or diagnose physical samples submitted. Pending funding, the intern will design workshops and maintain a living classroom consisting of vegetable and pollinator garden beds (tools and mileage reimbursement will be provided). The living classroom will be used as an extension educational program, free and open to CT residents. The intern will have a leadership role in helping to plan the garden, ensure it is maintained as necessary throughout the growing season, and work collaboratively with Center staff to develop educational materials. Applicants do not need to have experience with plant pathology, but knowledge of key concepts of horticulture, plant science, and soil science, as well as familiarity with New England horticultural plants is encouraged.

Position Timing: We seek an intern to start soon as possible after the semester ends, but not later than June 15th. The intern will be expected to work 20 hrs per week for 9 to 10 weeks. The position will be based out of the Plant Diagnostic Lab on the UConn Storrs Campus.

Other: In the beginning of the internship, the supervisor will meet with the intern to identify key areas of interest, and what skills the intern is specifically looking to develop. For example, a student might be more interested in science communication than learning the diagnostic process used to diagnose a plant sample. The internship will be tailored to the student's interest to ensure a successful and positive experience, and from there, a learning commitment will be developed.

To apply: visit <https://blog.extension.uconn.edu/internships/>. Applications are due March 1st at 11:55pm. Contact Abby Beissinger, abby.beissinger@uconn.edu with any questions.