



Position Announcement

RESEARCH BOTANIST Framingham, MA

Native Plant Trust is the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants. We save native plants in the wild, grow them for gardens and restorations, and educate others on their value and use. We are based at Garden in the Woods, a renowned native plant botanic garden that attracts visitors from all over the world. From this flagship property in Framingham, Massachusetts, 25 staff and many of our 1,500 trained volunteers work throughout New England each year to monitor and protect rare and endangered plants, collect and preserve seeds to ensure biological diversity, detect and control invasive species, conduct research, and offer a range of educational programs. Native Plant Trust also operates a nursery at Nasami Farm in western Massachusetts and manages six sanctuaries in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont that are open to the public. Native Plant Trust is among the first organizations worldwide to receive Advanced Conservation Practitioner accreditation by London-based Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), which included an endorsement by an International Advisory Council representing six continents.

Please visit www.NativePlantTrust.org.

Position Summary

The Research Botanist manages the seed bank of rare and endangered species, pursues grant funding for and conducts research utilizing seed bank germplasm, organizes and takes part in surveys and seed collection of common and rare native plant species, and publishes scholarly articles on the applied research.

Primary Responsibilities

- Manage the seed bank of rare and endangered native plant species.
- Conduct research into genetic diversity within the seed bank and possibly throughout the range of selected species.
- In collaboration with Research Horticulturist, conduct germination testing of stored seed and cultivate seed for biological studies and population management work.
- Utilizing common and rare seed bank resources and our collaborative network, lead habitat restoration efforts focused on achieving strategic priorities, including species recovery, resilience in the face of climate change, and knowledge about experimental techniques.

- Publish independent and collaborative research efforts in regional and national scientific journals.
- Investigate and pursue funding sources for the seed bank and affiliated research through grant writing and contract proposals.
- Supervise Seed Bank Technician (responsible for processing rare species seed collections for long-term storage), contract seed collectors, and seed collection priorities of our New England Plant Conservation and Plant Conservation Volunteers programs.
- Maintain collection records, files, and seed bank database (IrisBG).
- Teach classes, present lectures, and lead workshops on topics of botany and conservation for Native Plant Trust.
- Analyze geospatial data (ArcMap) to inform seed collection of rare and endangered plants.
- Assist in field surveys and invasive plant control where necessary.

Skills and Experience

The ideal applicant possesses MS or PhD in plant biology or botany, genetics, environmental science, ecology, or a related field, plus the following:

- A minimum of three years of research experience in field botany, field ecology, and/or habitat restoration.
- Familiarity with botanical nomenclature and modern taxonomy, with emphasis on the flora of the northeast United States.
- Familiarity with germination and propagation from seed is preferred.
- Demonstrated grant writing skills.
- Strong organizational and communication skills (oral and written).
- Experience with Microsoft Office Suite, ArcMap, biostatistical software, and IrisBG.

This full-time, exempt position includes a benefits package.

Native Plant Trust is an equal opportunity employer and values diversity. All employment is decided on the basis of qualifications, merit, and business need.

To Apply

Please submit a resume and cover letter (MS Word or PDF format, with your last name as part of the file name) to Michael Piantedosi, Director of Conservation, Native Plant Trust at mpiantedosi@NativePlantTrust.org, using the subject line “Research Botanist Application”. Applications are due by **August 31, 2019**.