



Forest Pathologist - Assistant Professor

The Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences and the Department of Forestry, both in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University, invite applicants for an annual year (12-month) tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor rank with a focus on forest and urban forest pathology. The position will be a joint appointment in Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences (PSM) (70%) and Forestry (30%).

Position Summary

This position includes extension (50%), research (35%), teaching (10%), and service (5%), focusing on pathogens affecting trees in forested and urban forest settings. The successful candidate will develop an integrated research-extension program that is externally funded and nationally and internationally recognized; publish in peer-reviewed journals; and recruit and mentor graduate students. Integrating research and extension activities will include working with multidisciplinary teams of researchers, extension educators, personnel from state and federal agencies, and private landowners. The successful candidate will advance our fundamental understanding of tree diseases and contribute to developing sustainable, long-term strategies to manage major forest pathogens affecting forested ecosystems and urban landscapes. Other duties include co-instructing a course on insects and diseases of forest and shade trees taught annually to seniors majoring in forestry, horticulture, and related programs. Departmental, university and professional service also are expected.

Required documents: a) letter of interest that includes your qualifications for the position; b) a current curriculum vitae; c) a statement of extension, research, and teaching philosophy and vision that highlights your experience and alignment with our qualifications (3-page maximum); d) a description of how you will contribute to CANR's positive culture, fair access to resources, and creating a sense of belonging (2-page maximum); and e) contact information for three professional references. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Questions

Questions regarding this position can be addressed to the Search Committee Chair: Dr. George Sundin, Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, sundin@msu.edu.

Qualifications

Required qualifications:

An earned Ph.D. in Plant Pathology, Forestry, Natural Resources, or a related field, with demonstrated training and expertise in forest pathology. Applicants should have a record of scholarly activities in their field.

Desired qualification:

Evidence of applied research, successful grants writing, extension experience, and teaching in Forest Pathology will be valued.

Applicants can apply for this position here: <https://jobs.msu.edu>, posting #1025560. The search committee will begin reviewing applications on September 27, 2025 and continue until a suitable candidate is selected.



Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

WE ARE HIRING!



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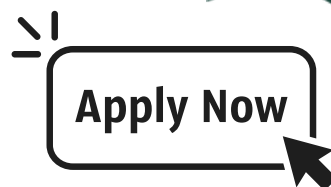
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Location

The position will be based at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI, USA. Michigan State University (MSU) is one of the top research universities in the world and home to nationally ranked and recognized academic, residential college, and service-learning programs. MSU is a diverse community of dedicated students and scholars, athletes and artists, and scientists that provide regional, national, and international leadership in basic and applied research and excellence in teaching. In addition, consistent with its Land Grant origins, the MSU community pursues international engagement and provides strong extension programs that partner with diverse stakeholders to provide much needed research in the areas of food, energy, water and the environment.

Salary

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications. MSU offers a generous benefits package (details at <https://hr.msu.edu/benefits/index.html>).



About Michigan State University

The Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences, with more than 70 faculty members, is internationally recognized for its diverse research on plant biology, plant diseases, and the role of soil, water, and the environment in sustainable agriculture and ecosystems. The Department of Forestry, formally established in 1902, is a vibrant, growing, internationally recognized unit committed to an interdisciplinary approach to address environmental and natural resource issues. The faculty includes leading ecologists, economists, entomologists, social scientists, and statisticians. With more than 20 million acres of forest land, a diverse range of forest cover types, and forest products, chestnut, Christmas tree and nursery industries that rank nationally, Michigan provides abundant opportunities for research, extension, and teaching.

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