

PLANT PATHOLOGIST

Plant pathologists study the health of plants. Work with bacteria, fungi, viruses, insects and study their effect on the plant. Also work with national and international trade organisations and governmental departments regarding the phyto-sanitary requirements of moving seed across borders.



KEY ASPECTS OF THIS JOB

- Scouting crops for diseases and collect samples for diagnosis in the laboratory
- Collection and isolation of cultures; growing cultures and micro-organisms
- Perform inoculation of plants
- Diagnosis of pathogens



PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Are passionate about plants and diseases
- Are creative, inquisitive and enjoy problem-solving
- Can work methodically and using own initiative
- Enjoy working in all environments



QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED

- Senior Certificate
 - Mathematics and Physical Science
 - APS score of 23 – 32 (APS score excludes Life Orientation)
- BScAgric Plant Pathology (4 years)/ BSc Plant Pathology or Molecular Cell Biology
- Honours (1 year – optional)



OPTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- MSc in Plant Pathology/Molecular Cell Biology
- PhD in Plant Pathology/Molecular Cell Biology

TYPICAL EMPLOYERS

Seed research and biotech companies, the government, universities, or even work independently for different clients.



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