

Washington State University  
Department of Plant Pathology  
Notice of Vacancy

WSU Position #130543

**TITLE:**

- Endowed Chair in Bacterial Diseases of Tree Fruits
- 12-month, permanent full-time, tenured Associate or Full Professor

**LOCATION:**

- WSU-Prosser Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center (IAREC), Prosser, Washington

**SALARY:**

- Competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

**START:**

- October 1, 2020; negotiable

**THE OPPORTUNITY:**

The College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resources Sciences (CAHNRS), through the Department of Plant Pathology, seeks a **leader in bacterial diseases of tree fruits** to serve as a core member of our tree fruit research and extension team. The endowed chair will build an internationally recognized research and extension program in tree fruit bacteriology to enhance the profitability and sustainability of the Washington apple, pear, and other stone fruit industries. This position is supported by a \$2.0 million endowment made possible by a \$32 million investment from the state's tree fruit growers to support research and extension at Washington State University (WSU).

Washington State is a premier tree fruit production region, with more than 230,000 acres (95,000 ha) statewide providing an annual economic impact of more than \$8 billion. Over a third of the state's tree fruit production is exported to markets worldwide. The state is one of the most agriculturally diverse in the U.S., where long, warm summer days, cool nights, low precipitation, and fertile soils make conditions ideal for irrigated specialty crop production.

The Endowed Chair in Tree Fruit Bacteriology will be tenured in the WSU Department of Plant Pathology and is directly responsible to the Chair of the Department of Plant Pathology and the Research & Extension Center Director at IAREC.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Endowed Chair is expected to provide energetic leadership to address significant challenges to the tree fruit production caused by bacterial plant pathogens using an integrated approach and understanding of issues that are best addressed with a team-oriented, systems approach. Multi- and transdisciplinary collaborations are expected both within and beyond WSU. The Chair is expected to

develop a world-class research and extension program in tree fruit bacteriology, which provides delivered results with solutions and products for disease management. The successful candidate is expected to develop new research capacity focused on the most important bacterial diseases of pome fruits in PNW, provide new research capacity related to important bacterial diseases of stone fruits, strengthen capacity in tree fruit extension plant pathology, add research and extension capacity in tree fruit disease epidemiology and management, and provide pathology support for WSU breeding programs in pome and stone fruits and the Clean Plant Center Northwest.

Validation of new research findings on tree fruit bacterial diseases will inform technology transfer to, and successful adoption by growers. Active participation in formal dissemination of research results to the tree fruit industry, undergraduate and graduate students via guest lectures, individual and team-teaching activities and graduate student advising is expected. This Endowed Chair research program complements recent and planned tree fruit-focused research faculty and extension professional hires, as well as WSU initiatives — such as the WSU Tree Fruit Decision Aid System, the WSU Agricultural Weather Network, the Center for Precision & Automated Agricultural Systems (CPAAS), and the Tree Fruit Extension Team. This endowed chair is expected to increase research and instructional capacity in bacterial plant pathology, enhance competitiveness in graduate student recruiting, and enhance capacity in tree fruit IPM.

The successful candidate will emphasize collaborative programs with state, federal, and private research and extension personnel to strengthen efforts among multi- and transdisciplinary teams. The successful candidate will assess industry needs, acquire competitive extramural funding to support a comprehensive research program, contribute extensively to the scholarly literature, and enhance the national and international scope and reputation of WSU tree fruit programs. The successful candidate will be expected to conduct a program of research consistent with the mission of WSU in general and the strategic goals of CAHNRS (<https://bit.ly/36y8e9I>) and the Department of Plant Pathology in particular, and work effectively with other researchers, extension professionals, private crop consultants, and industry stakeholders. The successful candidate will participate in regional meetings, promote tree fruit pathology research, and provide content to popular/grower media. Teaching responsibilities include co-teaching phyto bacteriology and contributing to other courses as needed, mentoring and supervision of graduate students, and guest lectures.

## **QUALIFICATIONS:**

### **Required:**

- Earned Ph.D. in plant pathology or related field at the time of application;
- Tenure eligible at the time of application, i.e. tenure package submitted or 5 years of experience as a principal investigator in a research-based organization.
- Evidence of leadership in developing and executing an interdisciplinary research program in plant diseases.
- Evidence of ability to communicate effectively with technical and nontechnical audiences in oral, written, and electronic forms.
- Evidence of record in acquiring extramural competitive grant support.

### **Preferred:**

- Evidence of excellence in teaching and mentoring graduate students.
- Evidence of success in solving problems in bacterial disease management.

- Evidence of knowledge and ability to work effectively with individuals and groups of diverse cultures, backgrounds, and ideologies.

### KEY PARTNERSHIPS:

Washington State University strives to be the world leader in tree fruit research, outreach and education. CAHNRS is a top 10 agriculture college in the land grant university system. Today, WSU's tree fruit effort includes more than 30 faculty members who dedicate the majority of their time and effort to tree fruit research and extension. These faculty span eight academic disciplines – horticulture, biosystems engineering, entomology, plant pathology, soil science, food science, agricultural economics, and agrometeorology – and are located on the main Pullman campus, at four Research and Extension Centers, and in regional extension units. This effort is greatly augmented by the activities of USDA-ARS scientists in the Wenatchee Tree Fruit Research Laboratory and the Wapato Fruit and Vegetable Insect Research Laboratory, as well as Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission staff located in Wenatchee and Yakima. Additionally, there is potential for collaboration with the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory located at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) in Richland, WA.

Over 200 acres of research and demonstration orchards devoted to tree fruit for short- to long-term studies. Significant facilities and equipment are available at the Prosser Research Center, as well as with willing collaborators in the tree fruit industry. The Tree Fruit Endowment also includes two separate funding sources to enhance tree fruit extension research orchards and facilities. In addition, the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission uses grower assessments to fund research efforts with WSU, other universities and the USDA on all aspects of tree fruit production and handling. Approximately \$1.5 million is awarded annually to WSU and USDA personnel.

### THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY:

The department (<https://plantpath.wsu.edu>) is in the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS, <https://cahnrs.wsu.edu>). The department has fully integrated programs in teaching, research, and extension, involving approximately 14 faculty, 15 adjunct faculty, 20 research associates, and numerous administrative professionals and support staff statewide. The administrative office is located on the main campus in Pullman with faculty located across four statewide Research and Extension Centers:

- WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Prosser, Washington (<http://iarec.wsu.edu>)
- WSU Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center (<http://www.mtvernon.wsu.edu>)
- WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center (<https://puyallup.wsu.edu>)
- WSU Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center in Wenatchee, Washington (<http://tfrec.cahnrs.wsu.edu>)

### IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER (IAREC):

The WSU-Prosser Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center (IAREC) is a diverse and multifaceted research and extension center located near Prosser in Benton County. Benton County ranks first in the production of wine and juice grapes, second in the production of hops, and third in the production of tree fruits in Washington. The county is also bordered by Yakima and Grant Counties, the first and second largest producers of tree fruit in the state. IAREC hosts 18 WSU faculty

members associated with the departments of plant pathology, entomology, biological systems engineering, horticulture, and crop and soil science and 8 USDA-ARS scientists from the Grain Legume Genetics Physiology and Temperate Tree Fruit and Vegetable Research Units. The Center is also host to the WSU Subject Matter Centers: Center for Precision Agriculture and Automated Systems (CPAAS), Clean Plant Center Northwest (CPCNW), the Washington Agricultural Weather Network (AWN). Scientists at IAREC host over 40 graduate students from 11 countries and 6 continents. IAREC is a 30-minute drive from the WSU Tri-Cities Regional Campus. The area is served by Prosser Memorial, Kadlec, and Trios Hospitals. For more information, visit <http://iarec.wsu.edu>.

### **LIFE IN SOUTH-CENTRAL WASHINGTON:**

Prosser is a quaint and progressive town of 5,000 residents with superior public schools. It is situated centrally in the midst of a bountiful horticultural region. Located in south-central Washington State, Prosser is the birthplace of Washington wine and home to the recently established Walter Clore Wine and Culinary Center and the Prosser Balloon Festival. The Yakima River runs through the town and nearby orchards, vineyards, and hop yards. Prosser is a 30-minute drive to the Tri-Cities metropolitan area (Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick), where many IAREC researchers reside. The Tri-Cities area has a population of 250,000 and is the fourth largest metropolitan area in Washington. The Tri-Cities offer extensive water-related activities at the confluence of the Columbia, Snake and Yakima rivers, a symphony orchestra, three sports teams, a convention center, live theatre, several annual music festivals and fishing tournaments, and a variety of restaurants and shopping centers. The Tri-Cities Airport (PSC) offers 34 flights per day and is served by Alaska/Horizon, Delta, United, and Allegiant Airlines. Direct flights to Phoenix, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Salt Lake City, and Denver are available and the airport is the most accessible hub in Eastern Washington from November through March. The Tri-Cities is also served by Interstate 82 and Amtrak. The Yakima Metropolitan area, a center of tree fruit packing and distribution in Eastern Washington, is a 40-minute drive from Prosser and also offers big-city amenities similar to those in the Tri-Cities. The Cascade and Blue mountain ranges, Seattle/Portland metropolitan areas, and Spokane/Coeur d'Alene tourist areas are a short drive (1-3 hours) from Prosser. To learn more about the Prosser community, visit <https://cityofprosser.com>. To learn more about the Tri-Cities area, visit <http://www.visittricity.com>.

### **THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, HUMAN, AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES:**

The College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS) at Washington State University is an expansive and diverse college that includes 12 academic units and four research and extension centers distributed across the state. CAHNRS fosters disciplines that serve at the interface of scientific discovery and its application to the advancement of society and improvement of the human experience. Our mission is to provide global leadership in discovering, accessing, and disseminating knowledge that contributes to producing a safe, abundant food and fiber supply; promotes the well-being of individuals, families, and communities; enhances sustainability of agricultural and economic systems; and promotes stewardship of natural resources and ecological systems. In all dimensions of our mission, we strive to embody the signature “*World Class. Face to Face.*” motto of Washington State University. CAHNRS personnel embrace the opportunity to fulfill the university’s land-grant mission by making groundbreaking research discoveries, by utilizing innovative approaches to teaching and learning, and by delivering relevant, progressive extension programs that synergistically generate outcomes that enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Washington State, as well as for people around the globe.

Strategic hires have been made in plant breeding, genetics, bioinformatics, genomics, plant physiology, plant virology, and biosystems engineering to support the College commitment to Rosaceous specialty crops. A recently published analysis ranks Plant Science research productivity at Washington State University in the top echelon of universities nationwide.

For more information, visit <https://cahnrs.wsu.edu>.

### WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY:

Founded in 1890, Washington State University is a comprehensive land-grant university with teaching, research, and extension missions, and one of two research universities in Washington State. WSU is organized into ten academic colleges, the Honors College, and the Graduate School. It has an enrollment of more than 29,000 undergraduate and graduate students on four campuses (Pullman, Spokane, Tri-Cities, and Vancouver) with approximately 20,000 students located on the main campus in Pullman, WA. WSU ranks among the top 60 public research universities and is a Carnegie I, Doctoral/Research Extensive University. WSU strongly values diversity among its faculty, staff, and students and seeks to ensure a welcoming community for all.

Further information about WSU can be found at: <https://wsu.edu>.

### APPLICATION PROCESS:

Screening of application materials begins April 1, 2020 and the position is open until filled. To apply, visit [www.wsujobs.com](http://www.wsujobs.com). Applications must include the following materials: 1) a cover letter, 2) a current curriculum vitae, 3) a statement of vision and goals for the position that describes how you would serve the needs of the tree fruit industry, and 4) names and contact information for four professional references. The cover letter should address, in distinct sections, all of the required and preferred qualifications for the position (including your areas of expertise and research interests). For questions about the position, contact Kiwamu Tanaka, Search Committee Chair, at [kiwamu.tanaka@wsu.edu](mailto:kiwamu.tanaka@wsu.edu) or 509-335-6418.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EDUCATOR AND EMPLOYER.

WSU is committed to excellence through equity, has faculty friendly policies including a partner accommodation program, and an NSF ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant (<https://advance.wsu.edu>) WSU employs only U.S. citizens and lawfully authorized non-U.S. citizens. All new employees must show employment eligibility verification as required by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Washington State University is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation in the application process, contact Human Resource Services: 509-335-4521(v), Washington State TDD Relay Service: Voice Callers: 1-800-833-6384, TDD Callers: 1-800-833-6388, 509-335-1259(f), or [hrs@wsu.edu](mailto:hrs@wsu.edu).