

# Molecular Biologist (Plants) (Research Associate)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Research Service

 This is a job preview and not a real job.

## Summary

This position is located with the USDA, ARS, Pacific West Area, San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center, Crop Diseases, Pests, and Genetics Research Unit in Parlier, CA.

**\*\*ANNOUNCEMENT IS OPEN UNTIL FILLED OR OCTOBER 15, 2022 \*\***

## Overview

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### Open & closing dates

 04/15/2022 to 10/14/2022

### Salary

\$66,214 - \$86,074 per year

### Pay scale & grade

GS 11

### Location

1 vacancy in the following location:

 Parlier, CA

### Telework eligible

Yes—as determined by the agency policy.

### Travel Required

Not required

### Relocation expenses reimbursed

No

### Appointment type

Term - 2 years may be extended up to a total of 4 years

### Work schedule

Full-time -

### Service

Competitive

### Promotion potential

None

### Job family (Series)

[0401 General Natural Resources Management And Biological Sciences](#)  
[\(/Search/Results?i=0401\)](#)

### Supervisory status

No

### Security clearance

[Not Required](#)  
[\(/Help/faq/job-announcement/security-clearances/\)](#)

### Drug test

No

### Position sensitivity and risk

[Non-sensitive \(NS\)/Low Risk](#)  
[\(/https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/faq/job-announcement/security-clearances/\)](#)

### Trust determination process

[Suitability/Fitness](#)  
[\(/https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/faq/job-announcement/security-clearances/\)](#)

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## Announcement number

ARS-22RA-PWA-11465511-PAR

## Control number

649313000

THIS JOB IS OPEN TO



### **Career transition (CTAP, ICTAP, RPL)**

Federal employees who meet the definition of a "surplus" or "displaced" employee.



### **The public**

U.S. Citizens, Nationals or those who owe allegiance to the U.S.

## Clarification from the agency

US Citizens and Nationals; no prior Federal experience is required.

## Duties

- The incumbent will be responsible for developing Citrus tristeza virus (CTV) as a viral vector (CTVvv) to express factors in citrus phloem to help control Huanglongbing (HLB)
- HLB is a devastating citrus disease associated with 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus' (CLas) and its insect vector, the Asian citrus psyllid, *Diaphorina citri*.
- Specific objectives include developing a CTVvv strain that can be used in commercial citrus in California
- Examine the biology and expression of CTVvv in popular commercial citrus varieties grown in California.

## Requirements

### Conditions of Employment

- Males born after 12/31/1959 must be Selective Service registered or exempt
- Subject to satisfactory adjudication of background investigation and/or fingerprint check
- Direct Deposit ? Per Public Law 104-134 all Federal employees are required to have federal payments made by direct deposit to their financial institution
- Successfully pass the E-Verify employment verification check. To learn more about E-Verify, including your rights and responsibilities, visit E-Verify at <https://www.e-verify.gov/>
- Appropriations Law and Immigration Law requirements must be met

### Qualifications

This position requires a Ph.D in (Plant Pathology, Microbiology, Molecular Biology or Genetics related to the plant science field.) or a related field of study that has equipped the applicant with the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position.

Applicants must also have knowledge in plant virology, molecular biology, sequencing, and recombinant DNA methodology. Desired skills of the candidate include training and experience in plant virology, PCR, cloning, bacterial transformation, and bio informatics. Specifics abilities include DNA and RNA extraction and purification, electrophoresis, conducting sequence comparisons and interpretation of data.

Applicants must meet basic Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Qualification Standard's requirements of the scientific discipline necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position.

### Education

**This position has a positive education requirement. You must submit a copy of your academic transcripts OR a list of college courses with credit hours, dates completed, and grades received to verify education when applying for this position. If this information is not provided, your education may not be appropriately evaluated and you may lose consideration for this position. If you are selected for this position, you will have to provide an official copy of your transcripts prior to entering on duty. Application materials will not be returned.**

### Additional information

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) chief scientific research agency and one of the world's premiere scientific organizations. ARS Postdoctoral Research Associates are hired to supplement a lead scientist's research on agricultural problems of high national priority affecting American agriculture.

Recruitment or Relocation Incentive may be authorized. Final determination to pay an incentive will be made by the hiring official at time of job offer.

This position may be eligible to telework up to four days per week, based upon the duties of the position. This position may also be eligible for flexible work arrangements as determined by agency policy and any applicable collective bargaining agreements.

**To ensure compliance with an applicable preliminary nationwide injunction, which may be supplemented, modified, or vacated, depending on the course of ongoing litigation, the Federal Government will take no action to implement or enforce the COVID-19 vaccination requirement pursuant to Executive Order 14043 on Requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination for**

**Federal Employees. Therefore, to the extent a Federal job announcement includes the requirement that applicants must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 pursuant to E.O. 14043, that requirement does not currently apply. Federal agencies may request information regarding the vaccination status of selected applicants for the purposes of implementing other workplace safety protocols, such as protocols related to masking, physical distancing, testing, travel, and quarantine.**

## Benefits

A career with the U.S. government provides employees with a comprehensive benefits package. As a federal employee, you and your family will have access to a range of benefits that are designed to make your federal career very rewarding. [Learn more about federal benefits](#)  
(<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/benefits/>).

Eligibility for benefits depends on the type of position you hold and whether your position is full-time, part-time or intermittent. Contact the hiring agency for more information on the specific benefits offered.

## How You Will Be Evaluated

You will be evaluated for this job based on how well you meet the qualifications above.

Your application will be evaluated to determine if you meet eligibility and minimum qualification requirements, and on the extent to which your application shows that you possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) associated with the position as defined above under "Qualifications".

Note: If, after reviewing your resume and/or supporting documentation, a determination is made that you have inflated your qualifications and or experience, your score may be adjusted to more accurately reflect your abilities, or you may be found ineligible. Please follow all instructions carefully. Errors or omissions may affect your rating. Providing inaccurate information on Federal documents could be grounds for non-selection or disciplinary action up to including removal from the Federal service.

Clicking the link below will present a preview of the application form; i.e. the online questionnaire. The application form link below will only provide a preview and does not initiate the application process. To initiate the online application process, click the "Apply" button to the right.

To view the application form, visit: <https://apply.usastaffing.gov/ViewQuestionnaire/11465511>

## Required Documents

The following documents are required for your applicant package to be complete. Our office cannot be responsible for incompatible software, your system failure, etc. Encrypted documents will not be accepted. Failure to submit required, legible documents may result in loss of consideration.

- Resume that includes: 1) personal information such as name, address, contact information; 2) education; 3) detailed work experience related to this position as described in the major duties including work schedule, hours worked per week, dates of employment; title, series, grade (if applicable); 4) other qualifications.
- If education is required or you are using education to qualify, you must submit a copy of your college transcripts. An unofficial copy is sufficient with the application if it includes your name and the necessary course information; however, if you are selected, you will be required to submit official transcripts prior to entering on duty. Education must have been successfully obtained from an accredited school, college or university. If any education was completed at a foreign institute, you must submit with your application evidence that the institute was appropriately accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as equivalent to U.S. education standards. There are private organizations that specialize in this evaluation and a fee is normally associated with this service. For a list of private organizations that evaluate education, visit the [NACES](http://www.naces.org/members.htm) website. All transcripts must be in English or include an English translation.
- If claiming veteran's preference, you must submit a DD214, Certificate of Release from Active Duty, which shows dates of service and discharge under honorable conditions. If currently on active duty you must submit a certification of expected discharge or release from active duty service under honorable conditions not later than 120 days after the date the certification is submitted. Veteran's preference must be verified prior to appointment. Without this documentation, you will not receive veteran's preference and your application will be evaluated based on the material(s) submitted.
- If claiming 10-point veteran's preference you must provide the DD214 or certification requirements (see above bullet), plus the proof of entitlement of this preference as listed on the SF-15 Application for 10-point Veterans' Preference. The SF-15 should be included but is not required. Failure to submit these documents could result in the determination that there is insufficient documentation to support your claim for 10-point preference. For more information on veterans' preference visit [FEDSHIREVETS](https://www.fedshirevets.gov/job-seekers/veterans-preference/#content) (<https://www.fedshirevets.gov/job-seekers/veterans-preference/#content>).
- Surplus or displaced employees eligible for CTAP, RPL, or ICTAP priority must provide: proof of eligibility (RIF separation notice, notice of proposed removal for declining a transfer of function or directed reassignment to another commuting area, notice of disability annuity termination), SF-50 documenting separation (as applicable), and your most recent SF-50 noting position, grade level, and duty location with your application per 5 CFR 330.

**If application packages do not contain all of the requested information, you may lose consideration for the job. To help you ensure your application fully outlines your qualifications and eligibility for this position, please submit the following documentation as appropriate. Some of the items listed may not apply to you. NOTE: Applications received in postage paid government envelopes will not be considered.**

**As an Applicant for a Postdoctoral Research Associate Position, you must also submit the following:**

\_\_\_ A one-page abstract of Ph.D. dissertation

\_\_\_ A resume of any honors or awards received; memberships in professional or honor societies; invitations to make presentations at scientific/technical meetings; scientific society office and committee assignments; presentations (other than invitations); and publications.

\_\_\_ A list of names, addresses, and phone numbers of persons familiar with your stature, contributions, and recognition.

## How to Apply

How To apply

Applications may be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to the appropriate address and/or facsimile number listed below:

**Mail: Dr. Raymond Yokomi**

9611 S. Riverbend Ave  
Partier, CA 93648  
E-mail: [ray.yokomi@usda.gov](mailto:ray.yokomi@usda.gov)  
Fax: (559) 596-2851  
Contact Phone: (559) 596-2990

If sending your application as an attachment to an email, do not send zipped files. They will be removed in accordance with standard electronic security procedures.

## Agency contact information

 Melissa Smith

### Phone

[510-559-6312](tel:510-559-6312)  
(tel:510-559-6312)

### Email

[melissa.smith2@usda.gov](mailto:melissa.smith2@usda.gov)  
(mailto:melissa.smith2@usda.gov)

[Learn more about this agency.](#)  
(#agency-modal-trigger)

### Address

Agricultural Research Service  
800 Buchanan Street  
Albany, CA 94710  
US

## Next steps

Applications will be received and reviewed for consideration until a selection has been made.

Your application will be reviewed to verify that you meet the eligibility and qualification requirements for the position prior to issuing referral lists to the selecting official. If further evaluation or interviews are required, you will be contacted. Log in to your [USAJOBS](#)

[/https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.usajobs.gov%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ce9d4f6e94135436a083908d9e7970141%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637795458011369787%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWJiJiMC4wLjIj](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.usajobs.gov%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ce9d4f6e94135436a083908d9e7970141%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637795458011369787%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWJiJiMC4wLjIj)

account to check your application status.

You must choose to turn on email notifications in your USAJOBS profile if you want to receive important email notifications that may impact your applicant experience (e.g. If you start an application and do not submit it prior to the closing date, USAJOBS will send an email reminder that the closing date is approaching and your application is in an incomplete status).

## Fair & Transparent

The Federal hiring process is setup to be fair and transparent. Please read the following guidance.

[Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) Policy.](#)

[/Help/equal-employment-opportunity/.](#)

[Financial suitability.](#)

[/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/financial-suitability/.](#)

[New employee probationary period](#)

[/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/probationary-period/.](#)

[Privacy Act](#)

[/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/privacy-act/.](#)

[Reasonable accommodation policy.](#)

[/Help/reasonable-accommodation/.](#)

[Selective Service](#)

[/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/selective-service/.](#)

[Signature and false statements](#)

[/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/signature-false-statements/.](#)

[Social security number request](#)

[/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/social-security-number/.](#)