Title: Molecular Biology Associate Scientist
Reports to: Nicolas Champouret, Director Molecular Biology, Gene Discovery and Analytical Services
Ball Horticultural Company

Work location: West Chicago, IL
Full-time, benefit-eligible position

Key Responsibilities (Outcomes – why does this job exist?):
Supports the molecular effort aimed at improving ornamental traits of multiple ornamentals and key vegetable crops through biotechnology and molecular breeding. Plan and participate in plant characterization assays. Advanced technical expertise in molecular skills required for assistant and nuclear acid extraction, southerns, northerns, Elisa, plasmid construction, basic sequence analysis, multiple PCR methods, and advanced cloning methods. Interprets and integrates data.

Relationships: To whom does this job provide service? Who depends upon this person to be here and functioning?

Insert chart showing customers – Who impacts this position and who is impacted by the outcomes??

Essential Functions – What needs to Be Accomplished?

- Performs molecular laboratory methods including nucleic acid extraction, reverse transcription, quantitative PCR, and various other molecular diagnostic technologies.
- Plans and participates in plant characterization assays.
- Supports projects in molecular and plant engineering, including genome editing, gene cluster characterization and engineering, and the expression and production of small molecule metabolites in native or heterologous hosts.
- Supports custom projects for molecular markers discovery.
- Generates NGS libraries for sequencing of RNA and DNA.
- Writes and reviews experimental protocols and Standard Operating Procedures, incorporating input from other team members efficiently and effectively.
• Possesses creative problem solving and critical thinking skills for addressing technical issues during assay development.
• Follows new technologies and literatures.
• Serves as a project manager, or manages assistants, or manages lab Increased levels of independence and troubleshooting.

Other Responsibilities:
• May train, coach, and supervise employees.

Requirements:
• MSc degree and 2-4 years’ relevant industry experience preferred or BA with 5-7 years’ experience.
• 2+ years of experience in biotechnology with transient assays development.
• Familiarity of various molecular commercial kits and technology landscape.
• Advanced technical expertise in molecular skills required for assistant and nuclear acid extraction, southern, northern, plasmid construction, basic sequence analysis, multiple PCR methods, and advanced cloning methods.
• Versed in plant genetics and relevant databases.
• Experienced in basic gene discovery (e.g.: mapping, cloning, constructs development, transient assay testing, etc).
• Prior experience working with polyploid crops is a plus.
• Prior experience working in a regulated environment is also a plus.

Required Skills & Experience
• Experienced with a variety of molecular biology techniques.
• Self-motivated with the know how to prioritize and schedule multiple concurrent projects.
• Excellent communication skills and ability to implement technologies developed from R&D into commercial product.
• Excellent work ethic with high-level of professionalism and integrity.

Physical Requirements
• Must be able to stand for extended periods of time.
• Must be able to perform repetitive wrist/hand motions.

Scope of Responsibility
Staff: This position might have one or two direct reports.
Budgets: This person may manage a budget.