Title: **Molecular Biology 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. Has a high level of technical efficiency and displays technical excellence in molecular methods. Works in conjunction with other teams and breeders to set up and carry out experiments. Troubleshoots, summarizes, and reports results. Optimizes existing methods and rapidly adapts new methods. Involved in multiple projects simultaneously and has a good understanding of the theoretical basis of these and related projects.

**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.
- Drive 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.
- Support custom projects for molecular markers discovery.
- Generate 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.
• Performs advanced experimental design, cross-department experiment planning and implementation. Has a basic knowledge of patent applications.
• Creative problem solving and critical thinking skills for addressing technical issues during assay development.
• Participates in setting long-term strategies, sets project goals and leads projects to meet timelines and targets.
• Demonstrates innovation. Follows new technologies and literatures.

Other Responsibilities:
• Train, coach, and supervise employees.

Requirements:
• PhD in a relevant scientific field and 5+ years’ of experience in a molecular biology laboratory, preferably in biotech industry.
• 3+ years’ of experience in biotechnology with transient assays development.
• Familiarity of various commercial GE kits and technology landscape.
• Versed in plant genetics and relevant databases.
• Experienced in 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 can 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 does not/does manage a budget.