



AGRONOMY SPECIALIST

Job Description

JDAGS

Position	Agronomy Specialist
Location	Myrtleford, Victoria.
Reports To	Head of Agronomic Services
Direct Reports	Farm-based Agronomy Technicians
Position Summary	The Agronomy Specialist works as part of the Agronomic Services team to provide advice and support the farm's technical systems that improve the quality of hop growth. This role works in a consultative and collaborative approach to share knowledge and insights for the effective and timely delivery of crop actions.
Responsibilities	<p>Agronomic Services Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain frequent communication with the Head of Agronomic Services and the Farm Manager about planned and actioned work deliverables.• Supervise and support farm-based Agronomy Technicians, including planning work programs, providing training, and monitoring performance.• Assist with planning, coordination, and documentation of general farm operations relating to agronomy, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Coordinating or conducting the collection of soil samples for the property in April/May and N checks in December/January.○ Conducting virus sampling including bud collection and cataloguing (May/June).○ Commercial propagation activities.○ Coordinating and documenting mite and snail monitoring.○ Framework maintenance, weed, and vine control, vine training, fertiliser applications, spraying, and irrigation operation.○ Planning, coordination, documentation, and some supervision of commercial and research trials.○ Participate in regular meetings to facilitate the sharing of information and learnings between our VIC and TAS farms.○ Assist the Farm Manager with crop monitoring for two-spotted mites and beneficial species as part of the IPM program.• Seek information and provide advice relating to long-term, continual improvement in:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Crop yield, kgs of alpha per hectare, and kgs of hops per hectare.○ Controlling pests and diseases.○ Improving soil structure and organic matter.○ Applying crop nutrients, and application and scheduling of irrigation.• Contribute to the short, medium, and long-term sustainability objectives. <p>Plant Breeding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain frequent communication with the Head of Agronomic Services on breeding/research requirements and activities on the farm. Assist in planning, documenting, and coordinating tasks in the breeding garden.



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- Assist with:
 - Pollen collection and crossing, seedling/plot identification and preparation, planting, establishment, and maintenance.
 - Phenotype and agronomic assessments of plants and plots.
 - Data capture for plant breeding as required.
 - Seasonal trial establishment.

Harvest

- Undertake day shifts and assist with the coordination and smooth operation of the technical harvest, including training and supervising harvest employees according to documented work instructions and procedures.
- Assist with preparation of PPE and machinery for the harvest, conduct pre-harvest cleaning, and housekeeping. Complete the required documentation.
- Assist with commercial Green Hop collection, packaging, and dispatch.
- Assist with infield harvest, machine picking, and kiln drying of yield strips, trial plots, and single strings/plants.
- Undertake sample identification, drying, and preparation/packaging.

Laboratory

- Liaise with the Laboratory and Sustainability Manager to plan, coordinate and fulfill the pre-harvest, horticulture, and plant breeding laboratory sampling requirements.
- Assist where necessary with:
 - Coordinating sample logging, data entry, and sample preparation.
 - NIR analysis, loss on drying moisture determination, quantitative determination of oil content, solvent handling.

Plant & Equipment

- Ensure tools and equipment are returned after use, cleaned, and stored appropriately.
- Coordinate with the Maintenance Supervisor and workshop to ensure equipment is serviced, repaired, and ready for work when required.
- Ensure property and facilities are kept clean, tidy, safe, and secure.

WHS & Quality

- Comply with Work, Health & Safety, and Quality policies and procedures, including ensuring direct reports are maintaining safe work practices.
- Participate in Quality and Safety meetings, audits, and inspections. Conduct risk assessments and job safety analysis as required.
- Identify and report safety or quality non-conformances.



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The Agronomy Specialist may perform other duties as instructed by the Head of Agronomic Services from time to time, within the scope of the role.

Skill Requirements

- Excellent communication and consultation skills.
- Sound knowledge and recent experience in Agronomy or Horticulture:
 - Management of plants and soils.
 - Managing water and nutritional requirements.
 - Controlling pests and diseases.
 - Monitoring and sampling in Horticultural operations.
- Strong research and writing skills.
- Ability to supervise a small team and coordinate the delivery of work.
- Understanding of Work Health & Safety, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP), and quality control and sustainability systems.
- Good computer knowledge particularly with Microsoft Office applications.

Qualifications & Licences

Essential

- A degree or diploma in Science, Agronomy, Horticulture, or a related field.
- Current driver's license.

Desirable (ability to acquire)

- Safe Handling of Chemicals training (Agsafe/ChemCert Accreditation)
- Forklift license
- Chainsaw license
- First Aid and CPR certification
- Work Safely at Heights certification