

**Extension Specialist
Integrated Pest Management / Mountain Conifers
Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources
NC State University, Campus Box 8008
Raleigh, NC 27695**

Full Description and Appy: <https://jobs.ncsu.edu/postings/167400>

Education/Experience: A post-baccalaureate degree in Entomology, Plant Pathology or similar area (MS/PhD)

Salary & Benefits: Salary will be commensurate with experience: Master's Base starting at \$56,000, PhD's Base starting at \$68,000. North Carolina State University offers an extensive benefit package; for more information visit <https://benefits.hr.ncsu.edu/>.

Position Summary: The Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at NC State University is seeking applicants for a full-time, Extension specialist position in integrated pest management of mountain conifers with emphasis on insects and diseases associated with the intensive culture of Fraser fir Christmas trees. The successful applicant will be a part of the department's 10-person Extension Forestry team of 4 faculty and 6 staff, which includes a Christmas tree production and marketing specialist and a Christmas tree geneticist.

They will work with research scientists, Extension specialists, county agents, program directors, and county technicians. This position is based in Western North Carolina, with Ashe, Alleghany, Watauga, Avery, Mitchell, and Jackson counties as the primary area of responsibility, but the successful applicant will have to travel periodically throughout North Carolina.

Office space will be provided in either Extension or NC Department of Agriculture facilities within the primary area of responsibility. The successful applicant will provide leadership in determining, implementing and evaluating educational programs consistent with the philosophy, policy, and overall educational objectives of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension. They will be responsible for developing and delivering educational programming to county Extension personnel, Christmas tree producers and workers, and other stakeholders in mountain conifers.

Responsibilities:

- Developing an innovative extension program in integrated pest management of mountain conifers with emphasis on Christmas trees that is consistent with the philosophy, policy, and overall educational objectives of North Carolina Cooperative Extension and NC State University
- Performing, designing, and supporting applied research relevant to Extension needs related to Fraser fir Christmas trees and other mountain conifers
- Seeking external funding that expands the impact of their extension program
- Publishing written extension articles/videos, and maintain the Extension Forestry Christmas Tree website (<https://christmastrees.ces.ncsu.edu>)
- Providing professional development opportunities for county Extension personnel working within the Christmas tree industry
- Providing current research-based information about mountain conifers through traditional media (e.g., interviews with reporters and television) and social media to diverse audiences
- Providing timely field observations on current pest issues to the Christmas tree industry by employing various teaching methods, traditional formats, and social media communication tools

- Cultivating and developing inclusive and equitable working relationships with county Extension personnel, Christmas tree producers, farm workers, faculty, staff, students and others including from relevant state and federal agencies to meet subject matter needs
- Working closely with county Extension personnel, producers, farm workers, grower commodity organizations, agri-business, community leaders, other state and federal agencies and others to identify and prioritize issues, problems and opportunities
- Determine educational needs and impacts by assessing and evaluating educational programs and services on a regular basis
- Performing extensive work with microscope and other appropriate lab equipment
- Conducting pesticide trials and other field-based demonstrations of IPM practices and providing IPM pest management recommendations
- Collaborating with other faculty as appropriate to conduct applied research and to mentor students around IPM, Christmas trees and other mountain conifers
- Actively taking part in service to the department, college, Cooperative Extension, university, and profession.

Qualifications:

Educational Qualifications

- A post-baccalaureate degree in Entomology, Plant Pathology or similar area

Required Qualifications

- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Excellent time and resource management skills
- Self-directed and self-motivated with the ability to multi-task and set priorities
- A general knowledge of pesticides including pesticide modes of action
- Ability to secure external funding in support of Extension programs
- Ability to plan, organize, work, teach, and interact with diverse audiences, including stakeholders from different socio-demographic groups and with different levels of background knowledge
- Ability to work outdoors in all seasons under all types of weather conditions, and frequently in very steep mountain terrains
- Ability to work necessary hours to fulfill job responsibilities, including some evenings and weekends,

Preferred Qualifications

- Curiosity about and passion for the field of IPM
- Working knowledge of different insect feeding guilds and modes of pathogen infection
- Demonstrated ability to lead groups, plan, implement, facilitate, teach, and evaluate educational informational programs
- Demonstrated success engaging with diverse audiences (e.g. with varied educational backgrounds and levels of knowledge about Christmas tree production, and from different demographic groups)
- Knowledge and experience planning, implementing, and evaluating participatory Extension or non-formal education programs
- Basic knowledge of educational technologies and their appropriate use in the development and delivery of educational programs
- Knowledge of Southern Appalachian forests, including native conifers and the insects and pathogens that impact them
- Experience with Christmas tree production and associated integrated pest management activities
- Demonstrated ability to conduct applied research and collaborate with interdisciplinary teams
- Ability and interest in supervising student participation in applied research and Extension
- Verbal and written communications skills in both English and Spanish

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Application Procedure: Confidential review of applications will commence in mid-August 2022, and continue until the position is filled. Applications only accepted via the NCSU portal <https://jobs.ncsu.edu/postings/167400> and include:

- Cover letter stating the motivation for the application
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Contact information for references
- A one-page statement of Extension experience and philosophy (uploaded as other Document 1)

AA/EOE: NC State University is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as an individual with a disability, or status as a protected veteran. Individuals with disabilities requiring disability-related accommodations in the application and interview process, please call the university's Visitor ADA Coordinator at 919-515-3148.

Final candidates are subject to criminal & sex offender background checks. Some vacancies also require credit or motor vehicle checks. If highest degree is from an institution outside of the U.S., final candidates are required to have their degree verified at www.wes.org. Degree must be obtained prior to start date.

NC State University participates in E-Verify. Federal law requires all employers to verify the identity and employment eligibility of all persons hired to work in the United States.