

PLANT BREEDER

A Plant Breeder is responsible for the research of seed characteristics and strives to improve the seed characteristics that are of the best quality for the plant. They work towards finding the best possible trait that is desirable for yield, maturity, quality, size, and can be resistant to drought, frost, and pests in certain plants. Plant breeders should have extensive knowledge in molecular technologies, statistics, plant growth, and genetics so that they can ensure that they will create the best possible plants for crossing.

WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES WILL I HAVE?

- Develop and manage a breeding program/ plant/seed breeding schedule and associated activities required to achieve program objectives
- Develop and maintain links between the company and technology support providers to achieve agreed program objectives
- Maintain and forecast a budget for breeding activities
- Technical interaction with marketers and end-users of the company's products
- Technical interaction with relevant authorities and institutions
- Develop a plant breeding team succession plan
- Supervise plant breeding team
- Develop and maintain key industry links
- Ability to undertake the manual operations required for the support of the production of seed and/or crops
- Utilize new technologies such as a Global Positioning System



WHAT EDUCATION & TRAINING IS REQUIRED?

Bachelor's or advanced degree in crop science, plant genetics, or agronomy

THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES ARE RECOMMENDED...

Agricultural education, mathematics, biology, botany, chemistry, earth science, physics

TYPICAL EMPLOYERS

Seed and biotechnology companies, government or universities, cooperatives

FUTURE JOB MARKET/OUTLOOK



SUGGESTED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

- Soil Science Society of America
- National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants
- American Society of Agronomy

AVERAGE ANNUAL FULL-TIME SALARY

\$73,000