

Research Associate (Phragmites australis Die-Back)  
LSU AgCenter

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Posted Oct. 2, 2019, expired Feb. 1, 2020

<b>Job Title</b>	Research Associate (Phragmites australis Die-Back)
<b>Department</b>	Entomology Department
<b>Institution</b>	LSU AgCenter Baton Rouge, Louisiana
<b>Date Posted</b>	Oct. 2, 2019
<b>Application Deadline</b>	Open until filled
<b>Position Start Date</b>	Available immediately
<b>Job Categories</b>	Research Scientist/Associate
<b>Academic Field(s)</b>	Entomology Agricultural - General
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<b>Job Description</b>	

Research Associate  
(Phragmites australis Die-Back)

(This is a grant-funded, non-tenure track position. Continuation will be dependent on funding, job performance, and continued need for the appointment.)

Work Location: Department of Entomology, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Responsibilities: Widespread die-back of Phragmites in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, has been associated with outbreaks of an exotic scale Nipponaclerda biwakoensis (Hemiptera: Acleridae). Because of the importance of Phragmites for the economy and ecology of the Lower Mississippi River Delta, several state and federal agencies have joined forces to understand the die-back. Funding is

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available for a research associate in the area of insect-plant interactions, host plant resistance, and wetland plant ecology. Objectives of this project are to understand the role of multiple biotic (insects, pathogens) and abiotic (salinity, flooding) stressors on the Phragmites growth and biochemistry. Field activities will include coordinating field surveys in Plaquemines Parish, and collecting plant, insect and environmental data every three months. Greenhouse activities will include maintenance of insect and plant colonies, and data collection of experiments. The successful candidate will help with data collection and analysis, and preparation of reports for funding agencies. The successful candidate will work closely with a multidisciplinary team including cooperators at the United States Department of Agriculture, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and University of Rhode Island.

**Qualification Requirements:** Bachelor's degree in Entomology or related discipline including Ecology, Biology or Botany. Experience working with scale insects, aquatic habitats, insect colony maintenance, data collection, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) or boating is preferred. We seek a candidate with a high standard in scientific writing and oral communication.

**Salary and Benefits:** Salary will be commensurate with education and experience. The LSU AgCenter has an attractive benefits package with a wide variety of benefit options. Current benefits offered include retirement, multiple medical insurance options, supplemental insurances (dental, life, long-term disability, accident, vision, long-term care, etc.), Tax Saver Flexible Benefits Plan (saves tax dollars on some child care and medical expenses), university holidays (14 per year, typically includes a week off at Christmas), generous annual (vacation) and sick leave benefits, Employee Assistance Program, and possible educational leave and tuition exemption for coursework at campuses of the LSU System. Specific benefits depend on job category, percent effort and length of employment.

**Application Deadline:** November 1, 2019 or until a suitable applicant is located.

**Application Procedure:** Apply online at <https://lsu.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/LSU> (or through Workday for internal applicants) by attaching cover letter with resume, transcripts, curriculum vitae and contact information for three references. Paper, faxed or emailed application materials will not be accepted, except that in lieu of attaching the recommendation letters online, they may be sent directly to:

Dr. Rodrigo Diaz  
Louisiana State University  
Department of Entomology  
404 Life Sciences  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
Phone: (225) 578-1835  
Email (preferred): [rdiaz@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rdiaz@agcenter.lsu.edu)

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[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Rodrigo\\_Diaz5](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Rodrigo_Diaz5)

Website: [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com)

**Contact Information**

Please reference Academickeys in your cover letter when applying for or inquiring about this job announcement.

**Contact**

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