

Graduate Student Assistantship MSc., Specialization in Plant or Environmental Sciences

Supervisor: Dr. David Percival
Department of Environmental Sciences, NSAC

Location: Truro, Nova Scotia (Nova Scotia Agricultural College) and Cold Lake, Alberta (field site)

Project:

Imperial Oil Resources is supporting a graduate level research project that will examine the abiotic and biotic factors influencing the growth and development of wild blueberries (*Vaccinium mytilloides* Michx.) in the Cold Lake region of Alberta. Emphasis will be placed on assessing the impact of cultural management practices (cultural management techniques) and environment factors on plant photochemistry processes, related growth and development activities, and berry yield. Analytical skills that will be acquired with the proposed research include the collection and assessment of microclimatic data; the use of fluorescence and leaf gas exchange systems; and the use of digital analysis techniques. This project will not only provide insight into factors influencing wild blueberry growth and development in the region, but will also provide the general public with potential technologies to increase blueberry production. The project will also provide a unique opportunity to work at facilities at NSAC and Imperial Oil Bioresources; work at field sites in Alberta; and also have exposure to Atlantic Canada's wild blueberry industry.

Requirements:

A Bachelor of Science honours degree (or equivalent) in Plant or Environmental Sciences, a first class GPA (80%, A- or 3.7) in the last two years of undergraduate study, and eligibility to enroll in the M.Sc. Program at NSAC (admission requirements available on the NSAC website at <http://www.nsac.ca/research/graduatestudies>). Strong written and oral communication skills are critical for this assistanceship.

Stipend:

\$21,000 annually for a two-year period. Please note that this will be in the form of a NSERC Industrial Research Scholarship.

Start Date:

Winter or Spring 2008/2009. Deadline to apply for a January start is September 30, 2008. All application documentation should be sent directly to the Research & Graduate Studies Office at NSAC. Applicants must reference this specific research assistantship in their description of research interests to be considered for this position.

For information regarding the research project contact:

Dr. David Percival, Department of Environmental Sciences, NSAC, P.O. Box 550, Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5E3 Canada. Email: dpercival@nsac.ca. Telephone: 902-893-7852, Facsimile: 902-893-1404.

For Graduate Program information contact:

Marie Law, Research & Graduate Studies Office, NSAC. Email: mlaw@nsac.ca Telephone: 902-893-6502, Facsimile: 902-893-3430.

**The Master of Science Program is offered by the NSAC in conjunction with
Dalhousie University.**

