**Soil Management Specialist – Horticulture**

Do you have knowledge and understanding of, and experience with, new, emerging or existing practices, products, technology, and research and innovation related to soil management with a focus on the horticulture sector? Do you want to play a key role in supporting the competitiveness of Ontario's agri-food sector? If so, consider this opportunity to join this team as a Soil Management Specialist - Horticulture!

Soil management is a critical component of agricultural production, nutrient management and resiliency to climate change. Help us transform new research and ideas into practical programs, products and services which will ensure Ontario's agricultural sector remains competitive and environmentally responsible both now and into the future.

**The Ministry:**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs helps to build a stronger agri-food sector by investing in the development and transfer of innovative technologies, retaining and attracting investment, developing markets, providing regulatory oversight, and providing effective risk management tools. The ministry also helps enable rural Ontario to build strong, vital communities with diversified economies and healthy social and environmental climates.
• Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/OMAFRA?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)

< <https://twitter.com/OMAFRA?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor> >

**The Branch:**

The Agriculture Development Branch is responsible for dealing with issues and challenges relating to agricultural production (crops and livestock). The branch promotes high-quality agricultural production through the application of best management practices, on-farm quality assurance programs, and plant and animal health strategies to ensure a competitive and environmentally responsible agri-food sector.

**OPS Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Anti-Racism:**

We are committed to build a workforce that reflects the communities we serve and to promote a diverse, anti-racist, inclusive, accessible, merit-based, respectful and equitable workplace.

We invite all interested individuals to apply and encourage applications from people with disabilities, Indigenous, Black, and racialized individuals, as well as people from a diversity of ethnic and cultural origins, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions.

Visit the [OPS Anti-Racism Policy](https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-public-service-anti-racism-policy) < <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-public-service-anti-racism-policy> > and the  [OPS Diversity and Inclusion Blueprint](https://www.ontario.ca/page/ops-inclusion-diversity-blueprint) < <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ops-inclusion-diversity-blueprint> > pages to learn more about the OPS commitment to advance racial equity, accessibility, diversity, and inclusion in the public service.

We offer employment accommodation across the recruitment process and all aspects of employment consistent with the requirements of Ontario's [Human Rights Code](http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-human-rights-code) < <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-human-rights-code> >. Refer to the application instructions below if you require a disability-related accommodation.

**What can I expect to do in this role?**

As a Provincial Specialist for soil management in the horticulture sector, you will:

• Lead Ontario's technology transfer activities through the development, coordination and implementation of strategies, policies and programs.
• Identify concerns, issues, trends and new and emerging developments.
• Provide an effective liaison between the research community and industry to determine the applicability of new, emerging and innovative technologies.
• Develop seminars and courses, and electronic and print information packages, as well as design demonstrations of new, emerging and innovative techniques and products.
• Facilitate delivery of program information services, education and training across commodities and disciplines to facilitate change.
• Represent Provincial or Ministry interests on multidisciplinary working groups.
• Provide expertise to senior management regarding the development, coordination, and implementation of strategies, policies, and programs related to soil management for the Ontario horticulture sector.
• Maintain regular contact with clients and partners, and develop coalitions and networks.
• Conduct field sampling and related reporting activities during emergency response.

**Location:** Ridgetown

**How do I qualify?**

**Mandatory requirements:**

• In order to conduct site visits at rural and remote locations, you must hold a valid class 'G' driver's licence or equivalent as recognized by the Province of Ontario.

**Technical knowledge:**

• You have expert knowledge of scientific theories, principles and practices related to horticulture soil management.
• You have expert knowledge of production practices and economics within horticultural soil management to develop expert leading-edge information and educational materials that will assist clients with improving their competitive position.
• You have expert knowledge of the Ontario agricultural industry (e.g. economics, social importance, roles and mandates of farm and commodity organizations).
• You have knowledge of relevant acts and regulations that impact soil management practices.

**Research, analytical, evaluation and problem-solving skills:**

• You have knowledge of research methods and practices to investigate viability and applicability of new methods, techniques and technologies, analyze validity of research findings, prepare reports and make recommendations on their suitability for Ontario conditions.
• You have the ability to identify and investigate soil management issues, trends and developments related to horticulture soil management.

**Consultation and facilitation skills:**

• You have an understanding of adult education principles and techniques to deliver training.
• You are able to assess industry educational needs and develop appropriate training and educational materials.
• You can encourage and motivate agricultural and rural organizations to develop and support policies and programs that encourage the adoption and maintenance of sustainable practices in their agricultural and rural communities.

**Communication and interpersonal skills:**

• You can develop documents, reports and educational materials using clear, concise language.
• You can present information, options and recommendations in a clear, concise and logical manner.
• You have the proven ability to develop and present information in many formats and can determine the most effective way to transfer technical information.
• You have interpersonal and networking skills to establish and enhance partnerships, coalitions and networks.

**Other important skills:**

• You have planning and coordination skills to manage project activities and resource requirements.
• You are proficient with a variety of computer applications, such as e-mail, internet, word processing, spreadsheet, statistical analysis and database software.

**Salary Range:** $1,511.78 - $1,929.62 Per Week

**Additional information:**

* 1 Permanent, 120 Main St, Ridgetown, West Region

**Note:**

* Less qualified applicants may be considered on an underfill basis.

Please apply online, only, by **Monday, February 27, 2023,** by visiting [**www.ontario.ca/careers**](http://www.ontario.ca/careers)**,** and entering **Job ID 193810** in the Job ID search field. Please follow the instructions to submit your application. Faxes are not being accepted at this time.

If you require accommodation in order to participate in the recruitment process, please contact us at [www.gojobs.gov.on.ca/ContactUs.aspx](http://www.gojobs.gov.on.ca/ContactUs.aspx) to provide your contact information. Recruitment Services staff will contact you within 48 hours. Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Ontario Public Service is an inclusive employer. Accommodation will be provided in accordance with Ontario’s *Human Rights Code*.

[www.ontario.ca/careers](http://www.ontario.ca/careers)