

## **The Various Duties of a Research Assistant**

### **Graduate Student Projects**

There are usually 4 to 5 graduate students employed in the Small Fruit and Vegetable IPM laboratory during any given semester. In my tenure as a PhD research fellow, I assisted the other students with their work on the control of whiteflies and aphids in organically grown cucurbits, monitoring and control of blueberry gall midge in blueberries, and control of twospotted spider mites (TSSM).

Teresia Nyoike, remained in the IPM laboratory as a research assistant and then as a Ph.D. student working on TSSM in strawberries I continued to help with this work by helping to collect leaves and count mites.

I also continued to help Corraine Scott, who looked at the effect of incorporating various cover crops and combinations of cover crops on the control of aphids and whiteflies in subsequently planted summer squash. Effects on beneficial insects and Lepidoterans were also monitored. I assisted with sampling that included the above mentioned techniques as well as pitfall trap, beat cloth, and bucket trap sampling.

I also continued to aide Ph.D. student Craig Roubos with his blueberry gall midge monitoring and control project. I assisted in collecting and dissecting blueberry buds.

Another Masters student, William Sanders, worked on grape root borer monitoring and control during this time. I helped with bucket trap sampling.

### **General Duties**

I was also required to help with some general duties. I helped to maintain the greenhouse plants by watering and fertilizing them. General maintenance duties included keeping the greenhouses clean, weeding, cleaning used pots, disposing of dead or highly diseased plants, etc.

During this time, a small area of blackberries was planted. I continued to help with pruning, weeding, and harvesting in the blueberries and grapes.