

Joshua Johnson

## My Dream Job

For me to accurately describe my dream job I must first convey to you how I ended up choosing this dream career. Since I was very young I had always believed that I wanted to be a veterinarian and help animals because I am a serious animal lover, having received this passion from my parents. Then while I was getting ready to search for colleges to apply to during my sophomore year of high school I decided that interning at a vet clinic would be a good idea to understand what the job would entail. Weeks later after completing the internship I realized that being a veterinarian is most definitely not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I started to panic that I didn't know what I wanted to do for my career, but then something interesting happened.

My father decided one spring that since we had moved to the country with ample space that we should try our hand at gardening. In Houston, TX we always tried a very small garden just to grow something and get some peppers and tomatoes. However, now he wanted to really try, and grow many different vegetables on a larger scale. I of course, at the time, just thought this would be a ton of work for something I wasn't interested in at all, but as the garden prospered I started to become more and more intrigued. I began to be more involved and check on the plants every single day to make sure they were healthy. I started to look up the best growing conditions and strategies to improve our harvest for every plant we grew. I also started to watch hundreds of hours of gardening YouTube videos on every plant imaginable. The following years our garden as progressively gotten larger and larger. I also start most of our plants by seed now in my ten by ten greenhouse I got for my birthday one year.

That is when I knew I wanted to go to Texas A&M University and major in Horticulture. I started to look for a career that I could go into after college using my love for plants. Then one

day I stumbled across a job description of a Plant Breeder, and after reading that description I knew what I wanted to be. I started research online what Plant Breeders actually did and how to become a successful Plant Breeder. The reason why Plant Breeding is such a fit for me is because first of all I love plants, and secondly I am very interested in genetics as a whole. I love the fact that genetics is always changing, and new techniques are evolving on a daily basis. Another reason why I am interested in becoming a Plant Breeder is that the job is dynamic in the way that you are always doing something different. You could be out in the field one day doing breeding trials, and in the office the next day working on excel crunching data. Another thing about this career is that you get to travel and see different places while testing or marketing the cultivars you have created. The only down side that I see to being a Plant Breeder is the long hours you have to put in to develop a new crop cultivar but if you love the job then it won't be so bad.

Now that I have determined that my dream job is a Plant Breeder, I know that it is going to require not only a four year bachelor degree but also a PhD if I want to be as successful as possible. I will complete my Bachelors of Science in Horticulture with a minor in Plant Breeding in May 2019. Then I will be pursuing possibly a M.S. in Plant Breeding but undoubtedly earning a PhD in Plant Breeding. This will take a lot of time and effort but if I get to succeed in my dream job of being a Plant Breeder then it is all worth it. After further research I have decided that I want to work in the Plant Breeding industry while working for some major company such as Monsanto, Syngenta or Ball Horticulture. This is my dream job and I could never think of a more fulfilling job that I would be involved in.