

2020 SUMMER ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE INTERNSHIPS

Description

Interns are assigned to work alongside our Ornamental Horticulturalist at the UT Gardens in Jackson, TN located on the grounds of the West Tennessee AgResearch & Education Center, at 605 Airways Blvd, Jackson, TN 38301. Interns will work on projects that benefit WTREC and are supervised by the professional staff. The normal work week is Monday through Friday, with hours ranging from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., but paid overtime in May, June and early July is often necessary and required.

Qualifications

Applicants need to have completed some course work or have acquired practical experience in horticulture or a related field. Basic gardening, interest in ornamental plants, and the ability to work independently and as a team are highly important. The ability to use common sense and make sound decisions without micromanagement is crucial. A valid driver license is required. Applicants may be subject to drug testing and background check.

Duties & Working Conditions

Interns will be responsible for the standard duties of working in a public garden. Examples include assisting in all aspects of garden maintenance and development, including greenhouse work, nursery management, propagation, tilling, pruning, planting, watering, mulching, weeding, and pest management. Internships involve heavy lifting and exposure to heat, humidity, and potential allergens. Students are required to maintain a professional appearance and at times must work directly with the public in a respectful and mature manner.

Compensation

Compensation for the summer internships ranges from \$9.00 to \$12.00/hour depending upon qualifications and experience. On-site housing may be available. College credit with the institution they attend is encouraged and may be arranged by the student. Interns may have the opportunity to attend an out of state horticultural related conference in July or early August with travel expenses reimbursed as well as other industry related opportunities.

Features at UT Gardens - Jackson

Level III Certified Arboretum: The collection features more than 150 of species and cultivars of trees.

Conifer Reference Garden: The conifer collection is a Southeastern Regional American Conifer Society Reference Garden with over 100 specimens in the collection.

Gardens: The UT Garden Jackson is one of three University of Tennessee Gardens known collectively as the State Botanical Gardens of Tennessee. Displayed on the grounds are annuals, perennials, tropicals, rain garden, All-American Selection Winners, woody shrubs, and a bog garden. Collections include, hydrangea, witchhazel (*Hamamelis*), redbud (*Cercis*), iris, magnolia, daylilies, and succulents. Many species and cultivars are being evaluated for their performance. The gardens are meant to serve as an area to showcase new plants as well as time tested classics. Though it is a young garden, there is a rich diversity of interests and artistry.

Staff: Jason Reeves, Research Horticulturalist; as well as a Research Coordinator

To apply: Complete employment application (available at west.tennessee.edu), attach resume and statement of interest in the internship and send to Dr. Bob Hayes, Director, West Tennessee Research & Education Center, 605 Airways Blvd, Jackson, TN 38301 or email to rhayes1@utk.edu. Applications are currently being accepted and reviewed and we will do so until the positions are filled. Promptness is encouraged in applying.