

2012 SUMMER ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE INTERNSHIPS

Description

Interns are assigned to work alongside Ornamental Horticulturalist at the UT Gardens in Jackson located on the grounds of the West Tennessee Research & Education Center, 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 for most interns is Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., but occasionally overtime work is necessary.

Qualifications

Applicants need to have completed some course work or have acquired practical experience in horticulture or a related field. Basic gardening or laboratory skills, interest in ornamental plants, and the ability to work independently are very important. The ability to make common sense decisions without micromanagement is very important. A valid driver license is required.

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, potted plant maintenance, propagation, tilling, pruning, planting, watering, weeding, mowing, and pest management. Interns will also assist with the accurate labeling of plants, maintenance of collections and answering visitors' questions. Outdoor internships may involve heavy lifting and exposure to uncomfortable heat and humidity.

Compensation

Compensation for the 2011 summer internships ranges from \$8.50 to \$9.50/hr. depending upon qualifications. On-site lodging is available. College credit may be arranged by the student, and is encouraged, with the institution they attend.

Features at UT Gardens - Jackson

Level II Certified Arboretum: The collection features more than 100 varieties and exceptional species in varied settings.

Conifer Reference Garden: Our conifer collection was recently named a Conifer Reference Garden by the American Conifer Society.

Introduction Garden: The plantings around the Main Office Building include many cultivars being evaluated for potential to the nursery trade. This area is also meant to serve as an area to display new plants to the public. This garden is intensely planted with annuals, perennials and tropicals, both in the ground and in containers. It also includes a bog garden with a collection of plants adapted to bogs.

Rose Collection: Approximately 240 varieties of roses including climbers, bush, antiques and hybrid teas are included in 'no-spray' trials to identify genes for tolerance/resistance to diseases.

Additional features: UT Gardens-Jackson now includes a kitchen garden, a low-maintenance fruit demonstration orchard, annual and perennial displays, an All-American Selection display, a witchhazel (*Hamamelis*), redbud (*Cercis*), camellia (*Camellia*), switchgrass (*Panicum*), daylilies, hardy agave and relatives and sedum and succulent collection, along with many tropicals. Though it is a young garden, there is a rich diversity of interests and artistry, and expansion occurs annually.

Staff: Jason Reeves, Research Ornamental Horticulturalist

J. Carol Reese, Extension Ornamental Horticulture Specialist

To apply: Complete application (available at west.tennessee.edu), attach resume and statement of your interest and desire of 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. as we begin to review applications by early February.