

Seed Savers Exchange Horticulture Internship Opportunity

Position Title: Horticulture Intern

Purpose: To learn all aspects of plant germplasm preservation through hands-on experience working with Seed Saver's collection of over 25,000 accessioned vegetable and fruit cultivars.

Job Description: The Horticultural Intern will work closely with the Vice President of Gardens and Collections and the Collection Curator in all aspects of our conservation projects. The focus will be placed on maintaining the viability and genetic integrity of Seed Savers' collection of over 25,000 vegetable and fruit cultivars. Interns will have the opportunity to work with germplasm being maintained as seeds, in tissue culture, and vegetatively in the field. This is a full time paid internship, funded for 44 weeks. A typical working week is Monday-Friday, 8 hrs/day with some weekends expected.

Responsibilities:

- ❖ Assist with regeneration activities in the greenhouse and field which including: seed production, vegetative propagation, controlled pollinations, species identification, characterization of varieties, monitoring of plant health, data collection, and documentary photography
- ❖ Perform laboratory tasks including maintenance of tissue culture, germination tests, and seed health monitoring
- ❖ Perform harvesting, conditioning, and packaging of seeds
- ❖ Assist in the maintenance of collection databases, filling and digitizing specimen images, and planning/preparation for field regenerations

Reports to: Matthew Barthel, Vice President of Gardens and Collections

Position Requirements:

- ❖ Candidates should have completed or are currently working towards a Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture, Plant Biology, or a related field. At minimum, applicants should have completed coursework in Botany and Plant Physiology. Additional coursework in the areas of Plant Nutrition, IPM, Plant Pathology, Soil Science, Weed Science, Plant Breeding, Plant Genetics, or Sustainable Agriculture is preferred
- ❖ Previous laboratory experience, including familiarity with sterile technique and use of a stereoscope, is preferred
- ❖ Applicants should have previous plant propagation, gardening, or farming experience
- ❖ Applicants must be capable of working independently and have attention to detail
- ❖ Must be competent with various computer programs including Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. Familiarity with Microsoft Access and Adobe Photoshop is helpful.
- ❖ Candidates must be available for a year long, full time internship (8 hours/day, 40 hours a week, for 44 weeks) including some weekends. The period of the internship begins January 19 and continues until December 11, 2009 (with some flexibility). The period of the internship allows for 2 weeks of unpaid vacation and observance of most major holidays.

Compensation:

- ❖ An hourly pay of \$8.00/hr is provided.

Applications:

- ❖ Applicants should submit a resume with cover letter describing their qualities and interests related to the position. Applicants that have not finished their degree should describe how this internship will fit into their overall educational experience.
- ❖ An un-official copy of your educational transcript and three references should also be submitted
- ❖ Application deadline is December 19th, phone interviews will be conducted with selected applicants.
- ❖ Email, or mail your application materials to:

Matt Barthel - Hort Intern
Seed Savers Exchange
3094 North Winn Road
Decorah, IA 52101

matt@seedsavers.org

Please only email your application as an attached MS Word or PDF file.

Seed Savers Exchange is saving the world's diverse, but endangered, garden heritage for future generations by building a network of people committed to collecting, conserving, and sharing heirloom seeds and plants. www.seedsavers.org