

Seed Savers Exchange Organic Seed Sales Internship Opportunity

Position Title: Organic Seed Sales Intern

Purpose: To learn all aspects of organic commercial seed sales and seed production including the identification of heritage varieties not currently commercially available and re-introduction of those varieties to gardeners through SSE's commercial seed catalog.

Job Description: This internship is broken down into three consecutive terms over the course of the year giving the intern a wide variety of experiences. The intern will work directly with a number of different staff and be responsible to the Vice President of Sales. The position is based on a 40 hour Monday – Friday work week with some weekends expected.

Term 1: Garden Planning and Research - January-April 2009

Research and plan the upcoming trial gardens, stock seed productions and small scale certified organic commercial seed productions at Heritage Farm. This will involve working closely with SSE's Inventory manager to plan a 1+ acre garden located near the LGVC. This garden will allow visitors to view the entire catalog line of vegetables, flowers and herbs currently available. This garden will serve as the basis for comparing other varieties growing simultaneously in SE's preservation gardens. During this time the intern will also assist with shipping mail order transplants and certified organic seed potatoes.

Term 2: Horticultural Data Compilation and Evaluation - May-August 2009

The primary focus during this term will be compiling comparative data between existing catalog varieties and varieties being regenerated in the preservation gardens. This will be done with the assistance of Aaron Whaley and SSE's Horticultural Technician. During May, interns will also work with shipping mail-order transplants and in July and August will assist with the mail-order garlic harvest.

Term 3: Seed Harvest and Preservation - September-December 2009

Intern's primary focus during this term will be to work with SSE's Horticultural Technician to take varietal data as the harvests continue and finalize lists of varieties that will continue to be increased the following season. During this term interns will also help prepare, ship and compile data on SSE's certified organic garlic crops. Certified organic seed processing will also take place during this time period and the intern will work closely with SSE staff to learn how to process wet seed and clean dry seed for packaging.

Responsibilities:

- ❖ Assist with research, planning and evaluation of public display gardens
- ❖ Assist with planting and maintenance of display gardens
- ❖ Assist with compilation of comparative data between existing catalog varieties and those being regenerated in the preservation gardens
- ❖ Work with SSE's Horticultural Technician to compile varietal data of varieties
- ❖ Assist with analysis and evaluation of trial varieties to help identify those varieties that will be added to the commercial seed production
- ❖ Help develop garden plans and recommendations for the following year
- ❖ Assist with mail-orders of transplants and certified organic seed potatoes

- ❖ Assist with mail-order garlic harvest
- ❖ Assist with processing of certified organic seed including wet seed processing and the cleaning of dry seed.

Reports to: Aaron Whaley, Vice President of Sales

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
- ❖ 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 full time internship, 8 hours/day, 40 hours a week,) including some weekends within the dates of each term.

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 and identifying positions and terms of interest. 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 29th, phone interviews will be conducted with selected applicants.
- ❖ Email, or mail your application materials to;

Aaron Whaley - Seed Sales Intern
Seed Savers Exchange
3094 North Winn Road
Decorah, IA 52101

aaron@seedsavers.org

Please 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