

UT GARDENS JACKSON SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Description

Interns will work alongside Ornamental Horticulturalists on projects that benefit the UT Gardens Jackson and the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center. Interns will be supervised by the professional staff. The normal workweek is Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., but occasionally overtime work is necessary. Interns living in provided housing may also have some weekend responsibilities.

Qualifications

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

Responsibilities & Working Conditions

Interns will be responsible for the standard duties of working in a public garden. Examples include greenhouse work, potted plant maintenance, propagation, tilling, pruning, planting, watering, mulching, weeding, 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 summer internships ranges from \$8.50 to \$9.50/hour 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

Tennessee's Botanical Garden: The UT Gardens, with locations in Knoxville, Jackson and Crossville, is the official botanical garden of the Volunteer State.

Level II Certified Arboretum: The collection features more than 100 species and exceptional cultivars 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 greenhouse and nursery trade. The Introduction Garden also serves 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.

Additional features: UT Gardens-Jackson also includes annual and perennial displays, a bog

garden, an All-American Selection display, as well as collections of witchhazel (*Hamamelis*), redbud (*Cercis*), camellia (*Camellia*), switchgrass (*Panicum*), daylilies, iris, hardy agave, and sedum and succulents. 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
Carol Reese, Extension Ornamental Horticulture Specialist

To apply: Complete an employment application (available at <http://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. We begin to review applications by mid-late February.