

HORTICULTURE RESEARCH INTERN

HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT



Direct Supervisor:	Senior Horticulturist		
Department:	Horticulture	Job Category:	Category 3 – Seasonal/Temporary
Location:	Richmond, VA	Travel Required:	NA
Level/Salary Range:	L7	Exempt/Non-exempt:	Non-exempt
Contact:	hr@lewisginter.org	Position Type:	FT/Seasonal - 37.5 hours/week for 15 weeks
Date Posted:	April 28, 2021	Posting Expires:	Until Filled

Garden Overview

Mission

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden’s mission is connecting people through plants to improve communities.

Vision

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, including the Lewis Ginter Nature Reserve, reveals the unity and integration of human and plant life, celebrates the fundamental significance of the natural world, and enriches communities through horticultural and educational excellence and innovative outreach activities.

Values

Responsibility, Innovation, Integrity, Hospitality and Inspiration

Founded in 1984, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is a non-profit garden located in Richmond, Virginia’s Lakeside neighborhood. The Garden encompasses 82 acres, four lakes, 5,500 unique taxa of plants within 15 distinct outdoor gardens, 11 major buildings including a conservatory and greenhouse, plus an 80-acre branch site, the Lewis Ginter Nature Reserve. Annually, Lewis Ginter engages over 17,000 students in innovative and exciting education programs. This cadre of identified learners is just a fraction of the more than 400,000 annual visitors to the Garden. In recent years, the Garden has been honored with inclusion in several top ten lists for botanical gardens in North America.

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability or national origin in the hiring, retention, or promotion of employees. We support the diversity and inclusion policy adopted by The American Public Gardens Association: to create an equitable, diverse and inclusive culture where the contributions of all community members are valued, respected and appreciated.

Job Description

Our Horticulture staff exhibits a tireless commitment to creating new and innovative gardens and displays that delight and inspire visitors of all ages and from all backgrounds. We are committed to demonstrating the use and cultivation of a wide palette of native and exotic plants suitable for use in Central Virginia and strive to maintain our collections to the highest standards in an environmentally responsible way. We think independently, work collaboratively, and are unified in our passion for horticulture. We come from diverse backgrounds and celebrate different ways of being, in ourselves and in others.

**LEWIS
GINTER
BOTANICAL
GARDEN**

1800 Lakeside Avenue
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lewisginter.org

The work of the Horticulture department is supported by an inquisitive, dynamic, hard-working and enthusiastic research intern, who is excited about spending the summer learning the art and craft of horticulture while supporting a plant-based research project. The intern will work in all Garden areas, assisting staff and volunteers with the challenging hands-on tasks of managing and curating a wide variety of seasonal displays, garden areas, plant collections and departmental initiatives. When not scheduled for research, the intern can expect to weed, rake, groom, prune, plant, mulch and haul debris in seasonal extremes and all weather conditions. See “Responsibilities” for more information.

Responsibilities

- Work with Director of Horticulture and supervising Horticulturists to design and execute a research project designed to address a research topic currently of interest to the Horticulture staff and of possible value to the landscape design and nursery communities.
- This internship will last 15 37.5-hour weeks, with time divided into approximately 25% research tasks and 75% horticulture tasks.
 - Research Tasks:
 - Plan and carry out a qualitative or quantitative research project, working in collaboration with senior Horticulture staff and other Garden stakeholders.
 - Draft a presentation on internship experience and research results for staff and guests.
 - Create research-related deliverables (graphics, social media content, etc.) as requested.
 - Of note, past research topics have included invasive plant identification and removal, planting strategies for habitat value, pollinator and benthic macroinvertebrate population surveys, southern blight pathology and management, water quality monitoring, food crop production and medicinal plants.
 - Horticulture Tasks
 - Participate in maintenance of horticultural displays, botanical collections and Garden natural areas.
 - Assist with the hands-on maintenance of annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees and tropical plants in a manner consistent with the horticultural standards of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.
 - Physically work in all aspects of garden maintenance and development including soil preparation, planting & transplanting, mulching, watering, weeding, fertilizing, pruning, propagating, potting, raking, sweeping & blowing, tree & brush cutting, and recordkeeping.
 - Safe and correct use of Garden tools and equipment.
 - Utilize shovels, trowels, fan rakes, grading rakes, spades, digging forks, pickaxes, brooms, hand shears, hand saws, loppers, pole pruners & pole saws, wheelbarrows, fertilizer spreaders, garden carts, ladders, and other hand tools to complete assigned tasks.
 - Operate push mowers, weed-whackers, backpack blowers, push blowers, garden ATVs, tractors, pickup trucks, and other power equipment in accordance with LGBG safety protocols and regulatory standards (training will be provided).
 - Work collaboratively with a dynamic team to achieve horticultural standard of excellence.
 - Participate in weekly group maintenance tasks such as blowing walkways, filling gas cans, and caring for tools and equipment.
 - Participate in group projects and meetings with other Horticulture staff and in cross-departmental projects.
 - Work with Horticulture volunteers.
 - Perform other duties as assigned by the Senior Horticulturists, Director of Horticulture or his/her designee.

Skills and Abilities

- A demonstrated understanding of the horticultural practices and procedures required for soil preparation, planting & transplanting, mulching, watering, weeding, fertilizing, pruning, propagating, mowing, raking, sweeping & blowing, and tree & brush cutting.
- The willingness to learn to identify frequently used woody, herbaceous, and annual landscape plants by common name.
- The ability to use shovels, trowels, fan rakes, grading rakes, spades, digging forks, pickaxes, brooms, hand shears, hand saws, loppers, pole pruners & pole saws, wheelbarrows, fertilizer spreaders, garden carts, ladders, and other hand tools effectively.
- The ability to operate push mowers, riding mowers, weed-whackers, backpack blowers, push blowers, garden ATVs, pickup trucks, chainsaws and other power equipment safely and effectively.
- The physical strength, dexterity, and coordination sufficient to perform the above functions.
- A willingness to interact with the public on an informal basis by answering questions, providing directions, etc.
- The ability to follow written and verbal instructions.
- Possession of a valid driver's license.

Physical Demands / Working Conditions

- Must be able to lift 50 pounds repeatedly.
- Must be able to work out-of-doors in Central Virginia seasonal extremes.
- Must be able to bend, squat, kneel, stand and walk for extended periods of time.

Note: Duties described above, other duties and physical demands have been identified as essential functions as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Education and Experience

- Required: Current student in or graduate from a program in horticulture, plant science, or related field.

Each employee of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

- Must comply with provisions of the current Employee handbook, all published personnel policies and the requirements of their individual job descriptions.
- Must perform all duties in a manner consistent with a public garden serving multigenerational and multicultural individuals, families, and in accordance with directed practices and procedures.
- Must be aware of surroundings and vigilant to threats to the safety of visitors, volunteers, and staff or to security of their property, ensuring that all concerns are reported promptly.
- Must report all injuries and incidents immediately and ultimately in writing to supervisor(s) and to Human Resources.
- Must ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.
- Must perform other duties as assigned by supervisor.

To apply, please send cover letter and resume to hr@lewisginter.org.