
Volunteer Role Description

Propagation Maintenance Volunteer - Overview

Westonbirt propagates new trees annually from sowing the seed to caring for saplings ready to plant out into the arboretum's historic collection. This role provides an opportunity to be involved in the day-to-day maintenance of Westonbirt's Propagation Unit that plays a major part in the conservation of this internationally important plant collection.

Aims: to assist in the growing of rare and valuable trees and shrubs for planting out into the Collection, and day to day nursery care.

When

- One day a week or equivalent during weekdays only. Ideally, we are looking for availability on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

What's Involved

- Weeding, sweeping, use of pressure washer and disinfectant/algaecide sprayer.
- Pot-washing and pot assembly.
- Propagation techniques: seed cleaning/counting/sowing; preparation of cuttings, air-layering and collection of material within the grounds.
- Nursery practice: pricking-out and potting-up, including the mixing of compost.
- Moving plants around the nursery.
- Labelling and measuring.
- Record keeping.

Note: This role will involve a considerable amount of compost post mixing, weeding and pot construction/washing because of the growing methods we employ and to maintain biosecurity and adhere to Plant Healthy standards. At times the work is physically demanding and repetitive.

We'd like you to be...

- Have an enjoyment and pride in keeping an area looking clean, tidy and well maintained.
- Ability to bend and lift.
- Willing to do mundane tasks with an attention to detail and to work in inclement weather.
- Ability to work as a team with one other.
- Possess a methodical approach with attention to detail.
- Enjoy being out of doors whatever the weather.
- Show a willingness to learn
- Database and basic computer knowledge.
- Enthusiasm for learning about plants and their propagation.

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We will...

- Provide new starter training and ongoing support, help and guidance.
- Provide training covering all aspects of the role.
- Provide tools, machinery and equipment with appropriate instruction given, personal protective equipment where needed; volunteers do not use chainsaws.
- This role involves bending and lifting, and some standing.
- You will need to supply your own stout/walking boots/shoes.
- Give you an on-site radio for communication.
- Pay a contribution to the cost of volunteering travel.
- Ongoing instruction including manual handling.