

Commercial Nursery Grower Bennett's Creek Nursery Smithfield, VA

Job Summary:

Experienced commercial grower needed to grow, maintain, and care for woody ornamental nursery crops from the time it is potted until the time it ships. Provide training, leadership, and a safe work environment for assigned crew members.

Responsibilities in the assigned area:

- Check soil moisture and make decisions on irrigation settings
- Scout for pests and diseases
- Maintain scouting reports and submit findings to IPM personnel
- Coordinate with the Weed Control Manager about herbicide needs
- Check fertility using the pour-through method and maintain records
- Make fertilizing decisions and submit requests for liquid feed to irrigation coordinator
- Inventory counts and corrections
- Regularly review inventory reports and coordinate with the Inventory Controller and sales team when inventory is ready for market or when a ready status should be changed
- Share pictures and promote plant material to sales staff and sales yards
- Assign tasks to the area assistant(s) and inspect work completed
- Request additional labor when large tasks need to be completed
- Assist pulling crew with plants in your assigned area
- Maintain growing records of all aspects of production including potting dates, spacing, fertilizing, pruning, weeding, herbicide, diseases, pests, spray applications, winter protection, and crop turns
- Submit plans and budgets for trials of growing methods and upon approval carry out that trial as planned and report the findings
- Submit a monthly report of upcoming, planned work for the production meetings
- Submit requests with estimated costs for maintenance and repairs such as weed fabric, gravel for roadways, greenhouse materials, and irrigation
- Maintain assigned equipment and tools including pruners, electronic meters, vehicles, tractors, computer or tablet, etc.
- Train and supervise assigned personnel in all equipment operation necessary to perform tasks
- Train and supervise assigned personnel in plant production, pruning, spacing, and overall maintenance of plant material in your area

Qualifications/Experience:

- Associate or bachelor's degree from an accredited college or technical school in horticulture, biology or related field and a minimum of two years related experience as a commercial grower. (Verified)
- Five years professional wholesale growing experience may be considered in lieu of a 2- or 4-year degree.
- Basic understanding of correct horticultural practices and experience in all aspects of nursery maintenance (planting, weed identification and control, cultural requirements of herbaceous and woody plants and plant identification knowledge)
- Experience with most horticultural tools and machinery is required.

Compensation: Based on education, experience, knowledge, and references. \$45,000 - \$60,000 or higher (will be determined after a successful interview and employment offer)

To Apply: Please send a cover letter, current resume, and salary requirements to: Ann Montague, HR Manager, ann.montague@bcnursery.com