Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Horticultural Internship

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture is seeking a horticultural intern for the spring of 2027 (March 8, 2027 – May 14, 2027). The chosen candidate will work alongside the Ornamental Horticulturalist at the Ellington Agricultural Center to complete projects that benefit the grounds. This internship provides hands-on experience in public garden maintenance, greenhouse operations, and landscape development.

Location:

Ellington Agricultural Center
440 Hogan Road, Nashville, TN 37220

Major Duties:

Grounds Management:

- The chosen candidate will be responsible for the standard duties of working in a public garden.
    - Examples include helping with garden maintenance and development, greenhouse work, nursery management, propagation, tilling, planting, watering, mulching, weeding, and pest management. Assist with day-to-day office operations, including scheduling and correspondence.

Other duties may be assigned as needed.

Education Requirements:

- Applicants must possess a high school diploma and be currently pursuing a degree in Horticulture, Landscape Horticulture, Plant Science, Agriculture, or another related field.
- Recent college graduates, master's students, and doctoral students may apply.
    - Students enrolled in course work that cannot work full time may apply.
- Applicants must be in good academic standing with a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

Essential Knowledge and Required Skills:

- Strong interpersonal, communication, and organizational skills.
- Ability to plan and execute projects with limited supervision or instruction.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office.
- General knowledge and understanding of horticulture, botany or agriculture systems is preferred.

Comments:

- This is a paid internship.
- Some travel may be required.
- This internship is part of the TDA's central internship program. In addition to regular project work, interns may be expected to participate in internship-specific events and activities that support learning, professional development, department outreach, and program engagement.
- All participants in the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Internship Program are required to complete an improvement project within their assigned division. Interns will identify an opportunity for growth, develop a project outline, and explain the project's intended outcomes and contributions to the Department. At the conclusion of the internship term, participants will present their projects to Executive Leadership during a luncheon.
- For more information on the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, please visit https://www.tn.gov/agriculture.html

Working Conditions:

- This position involves work in a public garden and greenhouse environment. The normal work week is Monday through Friday, with hours ranging from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The position will likely also require some weekend hours for watering the greenhouse. Work involves heavy lifting and exposure to heat, humidity, and potential allergens. Employees are expected to maintain a professional appearance and interact directly with the public in a respectful and mature manner.

How to Apply:

Applications must be submitted through the Formstack application available on the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's careers page. To be considered for this internship opportunity, you must have the following documents prepared:

- Resume
- Letter of intent
- Most recent transcript
- Two professional letters of recommendation
- DD214 (veteran candidates only)

Questions about this application or any internship opportunity may be directed to Jamye Freeman at Jamye.Freeman@tn.gov.

Other Information:

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's Workplace Discrimination and Harassment policy, the State is firmly committed to the principle of fair and equal employment opportunities for its citizens and strives to protect the rights and opportunities of all people to seek, obtain, and hold employment without being subjected to illegal discrimination and harassment in the workplace. It is the State's policy to provide an environment free of discrimination and harassment of an individual because of that person's race, color, national origin, age (40 and over), sex, pregnancy, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status or any other category protected by state and/or federal civil rights laws.