

Job description - Nursery operative (PB6b)

Job summary

You will seed and grow the trees for the nation's forests. You will support the general running of the nursery, including crop husbandry, plant production and dispatch. You will be a champion of our health & safety culture by exercising our value of 'look out and look after' within our work.

Key responsibilities & accountabilities

Plant husbandry

- be organised and use nursery machinery professionally and efficiently.
- follow spoken/written instructions and guidance from supervisors, and manufacturer's instructions.
- maintain plant and soil health by watering, feeding, weeding, and spraying.
- monitor crops for pests and diseases and report any concerns quickly.
- monitor and control weeds using manual, mechanical and herbicides as required.
- use plant protection products as part of an integrated pest management programme.

Plant production

- sow seeds manually and using machines.
- fill trays and transplant seedlings.
- propagation from cuttings.
- harvesting, packing, and grading trees to customer specification.
- keep accurate records of operational outputs using the methods provided by nursery management.
- collect data and enter it into Forestry England applications.
- report issues promptly.

Health and safety

- follow health and safety training and instructions.
- use checklists and risk assessments when for tasks.
- follow proper lifting techniques and safety guidelines to prevent accidents and injuries.
- correctly and safely use trolleys or other manual handling equipment as required.
- follow relevant biosecurity legislation, policies, procedures, and rules provided in training courses.
- make sure members of staff and visitors follow site biosecurity measures.

Team working

- work as part of a team or on your own to achieve nursery targets and goals.
- use your initiative to work proactively to complete tasks.
- provide first level support and direction to seasonal agency staff so that nursery operations are carried out professionally and effectively.
- be willing to undertake training to improve your skills.

And any other tasks, reasonably requested by your line manager.

Location-specific information (optional)

Skills, knowledge & experience

Essential professional and technical experience

- experience working in either a horticultural/agricultural role or within a forest nursery.
- ability to work as part of a team and on your own.
- ability to keep accurate records.
- able to complete manual tasks and work indoors and outdoors.

Desirable professional and technical experience

- IT skills, including use of Microsoft Office applications

Qualifications

Essential

- full UK driving license.
- at least 5 GCSEs at level C or higher (or equivalent grade).

Desirable

- relevant qualification or experience in horticulture, forestry or land management
- PA1 and PA6 pesticide application certificates
- hold industrial masthead forklift certificate.