

## Job description - Plant and seed apprentice (PB7)

### Job summary

Learning and training would be provided at Forestry England Plant and Seed Supply (PSS) and Rease heath college to seed and grow the trees for the nation's forests. You will have the opportunity to master skills and become competent on supporting the general running of the nursery, including crop husbandry, plant production, seed production and dispatch. You will become a champion of our health & safety culture by exercising our value of 'look out and look after' within our work.

### Key responsibilities & accountabilities

Training will be provided on the following -

#### 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

#### Plant/crop husbandry -

- be organised, follow spoken/written instructions and guidance from supervisors, managers 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

#### Seed unit -

- forest seed science
- seed collection, processing, testing and sowing
- seed orchard establishment and maintenance
- seed testing - purity, viability, germination etc

#### 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

#### **Other topics -**

- root and shoot electrolyte leakage tests
- basic budget management
- insight into plant dispatch
- in house trials
- pesticide application training by the college

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

### **Skills, knowledge & experience**

#### **Essential professional and technical experience**

- can do attitude
- passion to learn
- willingness to do a manual job

