



Horticulturist

The mission of the Houston Botanic Garden is to enrich life through discovery, education, and conservation of plants and the natural environment. The Garden strives to inspire all people to love plants and be good stewards of the natural world. The gardens include a global garden with arid, subtropical, and tropical plants; a culinary garden with permanent and seasonal displays; a family garden centered around a lagoon; a woodland event garden; wetlands; and a coastal prairie on a 132-acre site.

The Gulf Coast Native and Aquatic Horticulturist is an important member of the horticulture team and will be responsible for horticulture maintenance in the Garden's aquatic fountains, Coastal Prairie, Stormwater Wetlands, Sim's Bayou meander, native plantings, and carnivorous plants in the Susan Garver Family Discovery Garden. This position reports to the Associate Director of Horticulture.

The ideal candidate is an energetic horticulturist interested in hands-on projects in aquatic and native ecosystems. This multi-faceted position will also involve assisting with preparation for volunteer horticulture workdays, plant labeling, and education programs.

Main Job Responsibilities:

- Hands-on work in cultivated gardens, and stewardship of natural ecosystems. Tasks may include weeding, planting, pruning, mulching, watering, staking, dividing, and transplanting plants; native plant propagation; path maintenance; mowing; fertilizing; pest and disease control; and removal of invasive and undesired plant species.
- Safely operate equipment and tools to efficiently accomplish work, including but not limited to carts, skidsteers, mowers, pruners, loppers, weed eaters, chain-saws, blowers, etc., and assist with their maintenance.
- Identify pests and diseases, controlling them when necessary, using pesticides and herbicides, in an integrated pest management (IPM) approach.
- Participate in plant documentation through plant labeling tasks and notification of additions or removals of plants in the garden and notify new plantings and removals to the Chief Collections, Research & GIS Manager.
- Assist in irrigation repair, installation, and trouble shooting.
- Steward natural ecosystems, lead volunteers, and grounds staff in invasive and undesired species removal.
- Maintain, and improve the natural Gulf Coast native ecosystems at the garden.
- Assist in native propagation on site.
- Steward the garden's Louisiana Iris Collection.

- Support other members of the Horticulture department in a variety of garden projects.
- Assist with implementing innovative garden design.
- Support volunteer coordination for horticulture tasks.
- Occasionally deliver on-site presentations to internal audiences.
- Assist in garden education programs, *including* giving tours.
- Understand, and adhere to, all Garden policies.
- Other tasks as assigned.

Education & Experience Requirements:

This position is on the Horticulture job ladder and will be classified as a Horticulturist I or II depending on education and experience:

Horticulturist I

- Associate degree in horticulture, forestry, ecology, plant science, or a related field; 2-4 years hands-on experience in the horticulture industry or related field may substitute degree.
- Demonstrated horticulture experience through education and/or hands-on field work.
- Basic knowledge of plant material and cultivation requirements.
- Ability to work in wetlands, bayou, prairie and wetland ecosystems.
- Demonstrated passion for plants and the natural environment.
- Ability and willingness to perform hands-on gardening work in all types of weather typical in Houston (heat and humidity, freezing temperatures, wind, and rain).
- Ability and willingness to work flexible hours, including evenings, weekends, holidays, and special events, as needed.

Horticulturist II

- Bachelor's degree in horticulture, forestry, ecology, plant science, or a related field.
- Previous work experience at a botanical garden, arboretum, university campus, or similar setting.
- Intermediate knowledge of plant material and cultivation requirements.
- Experience working with, identifying and propagating Gulf Coast Native Wetland and Coastal Prairie Plants including Louisiana Iris, *Carex* (sedges), Grasses, and Wildflowers.
- Previous work experience leading large volunteer groups in prairies and wetlands.
- Experience in the safe operation of horticulture equipment and machines.
- Ability to work in wetlands, bayou, prairie and wetland ecosystems.
- Demonstrated passion for plants and the natural environment.
- Ability and willingness to perform hands-on gardening work in all types of weather typical in Houston (heat and humidity, freezing temperatures, wind, and rain).
- Ability and willingness to work flexible hours, including evenings, weekends, holidays, and special events, as needed.

Physical Job Demands:

- This position requires outdoor physical work, including frequent standing, walking, bending, kneeling, stooping, crouching, reaching, carrying, lifting, pushing, or pulling of objects up to 80 pounds, often working alone. It also requires some office work on a computer, sitting for extended periods.
- Working in humid, wet environments that require the regular use of waders, boots, and getting muddy.
- Working in environments with wildlife.

Position Details:

- Pay rate: \$17 - \$20/hr. depending on experience
- Full-time: Tuesday - Saturday
- Occasional weekends, evenings, holidays

Benefits: Medical, dental, and vision insurance; retirement savings match; short-term disability; long-term disability; and life insurance available.

Application Procedure: Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter to hr@hbg.org. We will contact those candidates who most closely match our requirements.