

Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Further Particulars – Horticultural Volunteers

The horticultural division of Cambridge University Botanic Garden (CUBG) comprises three sections: Garden Landscapes, Horticultural Display, and Glasshouses and Nursery.

Volunteer applications are welcomed from those who are keen to support us in delivering horticultural excellence throughout the Garden. Applicants should have basic horticultural skills and an interest in, and understanding of, horticulture. In each Section the work is interesting and varied, although excludes the use of machinery and chemicals. The tasks indicated within each role provide an outline of the duties and may change over time.

Horticultural volunteers will provide valuable support to Sections in delivering the core elements of their work. Each section comprises a Team Leader, two Senior Horticulturists, two Assistant Horticulturists and two/three (rotating) Trainee Technicians. In all areas, volunteers will be closely supervised by the Section Team Leader.

Volunteers will receive a thorough induction to CUBG, including Health and Safety / Risk Assessments with their relevant Section Team Leader, upon commencing duties. Regular reviews with the Section Team Leader will also be scheduled into the work programme.

1. Garden Landscapes

The Garden Landscapes section encompasses a range of areas including the tree and shrub collection, lawns and all grass areas, all hedges, paths, and hard landscaping projects, machinery, composting area, woodland and lake area.

The volunteers will work with both the **Trees and Shrubs**, and **Landscape and Machinery** teams as required in the work plans. The Team leader will co-ordinate the volunteers with input from the section supervisors on their weekly/fortnightly tasks to ensure that the work is varied.

Requirements: one day per week or fortnight (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday), 8:30 – 15:30. There is the option for seasonal volunteers i.e. March to October as well as an all year around commitment.

The volunteer will need to help with the following tasks:

Trees and Shrubs:

Woodland garden work: planting/weeding/pruning/mulching/watering/cutting back

Shrub beds: weeding/pruning/edging/mulching

Young trees: weeding/mulching/watering/formative pruning

Landscape and Machinery:

Mowing and strimming

Lawn and path edging

General path works
Involvement in landscape projects

General across Garden Landscapes:

Hedge cutting/pruning
Long grass cutting and clearing
Lake work
Leaf clearance

2. Glasshouses and Nursery

The Glasshouses and Nursery section covers the visitor facing Glasshouse range, its outside bays, the Rock Garden and Experimental displays as well as the propagation areas, the Alpine Yard, Experimental and Reserve Glasshouses.

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who want to join the team and support us in the care of the plants in the Reserve Houses and in the Experimental/Understanding Plants beds. The collection is incredibly varied, consisting of bulbous, fern and perennial plants that range from the mountains of Himalaya to the rainforests of the tropics, from the deserts of the USA and Africa to the tropical wetlands. There is scope for learning and caring about unusual tender and hardy plants whether you had already an interest in these plants or you are keen to learn more about them.

I. Reserve House General

Requirements: one day per week (Thursday), 9:00 – 15:00

The volunteer will need to help with the following tasks:

- watering and feeding in the Reserve Houses
- weeding and top-dressing of pots
- repotting, pruning, deadheading
- being involved in the propagation of plants (division, seed sowing, pricking out)
- pest and disease checks and controlling measures
- weeding and planting of the Experimental beds where plants are displayed and interpreted to explain some of the research and science behind them
- help and support the Glasshouses and Nursery staff with any other task involving other collections

II. Reserve House Watering

Requirements: one day per week (Monday), 9:00 – 15:00

The volunteer will need to help with the following tasks:

- watering and feeding in the Reserve Houses, particularly the Temperate and Intermediate reserves where bulbous, woody and herbaceous plants from the world desert and temperate climates are grown

- weeding and top-dressing of pots
- Repotting, pruning, deadheading
- Being involved in the propagation of plants (division, seed sowing, pricking out)
- pest and disease checks and controlling measures
- help and support the Glasshouses & Nursery staff with any other task involving other collections

III. Rock Garden

Requirements: one day per week (Wednesday), 9:00 – 15:00

The volunteer will need to help with the following tasks:

- watering, sweeping and setting up of the Display houses
- watering of the Rock Garden
- weeding in the Display Houses, Rock Garden, Courtyards and Bays (beds outside the glasshouse range)
- Pruning and deadheading in the Display Houses, Rock Garden, Courtyards and Bays (beds outside the glasshouse range)
- help and support the Glasshouses and Nursery staff with any other task involving other collections

3. Horticultural Displays

The Horticultural Display team covers most of the herbaceous areas of the garden including the Systematic beds, the Bee Borders, Mediterranean Garden, the Ecological Mound, Fen Display, the Stream and Bog Garden, the Winter Garden, Scented Garden, Cory Lodge beds and other ornamental borders throughout the garden.

Requirements: one day per week (Monday or Wednesday), 7:45 – 15:45

Role description:

You will be joining in with the planting, establishment, weeding, pruning, mulching, leaf raking and general maintenance of these areas to help us keep them to a high standard for the public. We are looking for volunteers with a good basic plant knowledge who are keen to work alongside the Display Team Staff.

The Selection Process...the next step

An Expression of Interest Form should be completed, indicating which Section you are interested in assisting, and submitted by those wishing to be considered as a horticultural volunteer. All applicants must be aged 18 or over.

An informal chat will be arranged for those applicants most closely matching our requirements. This will be an opportunity to discuss the role with Horticulture staff and a member of the Administration team.

Please download and complete the Expression of Interest Form and post or email to:

Administration
Cambridge University Botanic Garden
1 Brookside
Cambridge
CB2 1JE

admin@botanic.cam.ac.uk

The closing date for receipt of completed forms is **Monday 1 August 2022**.

