



**Orchard and Farm Grower  
Full Season 2016 Internship  
March 1 – October 31**

Growing Gardens' mission is to enrich the lives of our community through sustainable urban agriculture. We envision people experiencing a direct and deep connection with plants, the land and each other. Growing Gardens unites the Boulder County community through urban agriculture projects, such as: The Cultiva Youth Project (Ages 12 – 19), The Children's Peace Garden (Ages 4 – 10), Horticultural Therapy (Seniors and People with Disabilities), Fresh Food Families & Fitness, and The Community Gardens (General Public), and our Urban Community Orchard.

The focus of this internship will be to assist in planting and caring for a demonstration orchard unlike any other in the region, and assisting with greenhouse and field production for all aspects of Growing Gardens' onsite programs. Our orchard consists of 100 fruit trees, a pollinator garden, understory, and half an acre of strawberries and raspberries. Greenhouse production consists of growing for all on site programs, our annual Plant Sale, and a donation program for low income individuals and families. The field production includes a one and a half acre farm for our Cultiva Youth Project, raised beds for our Horticultural Therapy program and themed beds in our Children's Peace Garden. Our programs reach a wide variety of populations. In addition to the growing needs of our programs, interns will be an integral part of training volunteers to work in the greenhouse and on site gardens. The Grower Internship is dynamic, fast paced and requires a great deal of focus and care. The magic of growing food for community is a powerful experience; come and be a part of the growing season at Growing Gardens.

**Orchard Duties**

- Assist Orchard Manager with care of 4.5 acres of fruit and berry crops
- Planting
- Mulching
- Staking
- Labeling and education
- Leading volunteer groups for upkeep
- Seeding and irrigating cover crop
- Weed and pest management
- Pruning
- Research

- Record Keeping

### **Greenhouse and Farm Duties**

Assisting Site and Greenhouse Manager in all phases of plant growth:

- Seeding
- Transplanting
- Fertilizing
- Watering
- Cultivating
- Bed prep
- Pest control
- Record keeping
- General tending and organizing
- Help with harvesting of crops for CSA and wholesale accounts in the fall
- Assist, teach and oversee volunteers and groups of volunteers with orchard, greenhouse and field related tasks
- Participate in the systems that keep the varied programs and projects on schedule and on target
- Assist with Plant Sale production and be available to work five weekend Plant Sale shifts
- Gain an understanding of the Growing Gardens programs, their needs and contributions to the Greenhouse.
- Lead tours of the Growing Gardens Site to groups and individual volunteers

### **Knowledge and Skills the Intern May Acquire:**

- Gain skills and knowledge of organic orcharding and fruit growing and the ecology that keeps them fruitful
- Gain skills and understanding of organic food starts, heirloom tomatoes, and veggies
- Small scale organic vegetable production techniques
- The ability to work in a team environment
- The ability to work in a dynamic environment: this includes being comfortable changing tasks, working/leading diverse groups and feeling confident with a diverse population
- Organic greenhouse practices, production methods and marketing
- Create positive atmosphere for the interaction of diverse populations
- Ability to organize work and volunteer groups
- Develop an ability to anticipate work and volunteer needs and gain the confidence needed to jump in and lead

### **Structure of Internship**

Internship duration is March 1 – October 31, 2016

Intern position is 40 hours per week. Note: hours may vary between weeks; however the average number of hours per week will be 40 hours. Hours primarily take place during the week, however there is some required weekend work.

Intern will attend orientation meeting with all GG interns, mentor, supervisor and additional GG staff.

Intern will be working closely with a mentor from Growing Gardens' staff who will oversee all daily activities.

Intern will meet with GG mentor every other week for the duration of the contract.

Intern will have access to a supervisor who will check in throughout the contract and track progress of the intern.

Intern will report at Staff Meetings once per season – 3 total

Intern will have the opportunity to shadow all GG staff to learn about each program.

Learning Objectives Contract – Developed by second week of internship. This includes: position description, educational objectives, learning activities and skill development.

Evaluation – A midpoint evaluation and end of internship evaluation will include intern self evaluation, supervisor and mentor evaluation.

### **Benefits of Interning with Growing Gardens**

- Experience working on and managing work groups on a diversified fruit and vegetable operation
- Hands-on experience making a positive impact in the lives of children, teens and adults
- Friendly, relaxed environment
- Good experience; develops marketable teaching and group leading skills
- Classroom training offered through Growing Gardens classes
- Access to a wide variety of organic seeds and plant starts
- Option to garden in one of our garden plots at our Hawthorn Garden site
- Fresh vegetables from the garden as the season permits
- Garden is located with easy access to public transportation
- Monthly stipend of \$800
- 1 week paid vacation

### **Qualifications**

We are looking for individuals who are passionate about learning how to grow food and community. Applicant must be CPR and First Aid certified by March 1, 2016. The programs of Growing Gardens depend on the plants and food produced in the greenhouse and fields as earned income for our programs. The Orchard and Farm Grower must be responsible, dedicated and organized and prepared for considerable physical labor. While some growing experience is desired it is not required for this position. Applicants with education or experience in fruit research or production will be considered first. This experience is a great opportunity for someone interested in a job in horticulture, gardening, or community organizing.

### **To apply:**

**Applications are due by February 1, 2016 but will remain open until filled.**

Send cover letter, completed application and resume to Lauren Richardson: [lauren@growinggardens.org](mailto:lauren@growinggardens.org)