

# Hort-Sense 2021 Horticultural Internship with Wayne Mezitt

Updated February 25, 2021

This internship is a unique opportunity for the right applicant to learn numerous aspects of horticulture with an experienced nurseryman managing his private 5+ acre trial/display gardens and plantings around his home: hands-on work with hundreds of trees, shrubs, perennials and fruiting plants that vary in age, features, condition and size. Mostly in-ground plantings, some more than 50 years in place, some plants growing in containers.

Work schedules can be flexible and adaptable to needs of the applicant. The growing-season job can begin as early as April, continuing into November, as appropriate for the individual. Daily schedule is envisioned as 4 to 8 hours, two to four days a week, but adjustable, depending upon various circumstances. Pay rate to be discussed & agreed upon. Tools and supplies are provided, but protective clothing is a personal responsibility.

*NOTE: It is possible that this internship might dovetail with a complementary position, thereby offering a full week's employment for the intern, and a different perspective. For the right applicant, Weston Nurseries could propose a sales/marketing-focused position at its retail/wholesale sales location adjacent to the Hort-Sense operation. If appropriate, this would be a unique opportunity for the individual to gain a broader, more comprehensive understanding of horticulture in the Boston area.*

## Expectations from the job applicant:

A positive attitude, enthusiasm for learning and sense of humor are fundamental requirements. This is a hands-on, physically demanding endeavor: applicant must be at least 18 years old and:

- Physically capable to lift and carry 50+ lbs. repeatedly each day
- Agreeable to working in full sun, even during the hottest, most humid times of the year
- Prepared to handle/apply natural and homeowner-chemical products, pesticides and herbicides
- Able/willing to operate machinery, hand and power tools/equipment.

## Areas of Learning

General horticulture. Observe plant growth characteristics for trees, shrubs and other plants during the growing seasons; learn details about roots, stems, flowers, fruits and branching structures for many types of plants at various stages of maturity; introduction to some principles of garden design & plant combinations in various garden styles.

Propagation & growing. Work with hundreds of plants grown from seed, division, root/stem cuttings, grafts and tissue culture. Learn about soil structure, fertility and nutrient management. Transplant bare-root, container-grown and B&B trees, shrubs and other plants. Use water management techniques for maintaining new and established plants. Keep records.

Harvesting & Transplanting. Transfer living plants from their growing location for sale or to be grown in another location. Apply appropriate techniques for hand digging & mechanical harvest with various types of plants. Understand and use aftercare principles, including water management, pruning, mulching and other issues.

Weed management. Manage numerous types of annual, perennial, woody, herbaceous and invasive weeds. Learn particular physiological characteristics and appropriate approaches to control using

different techniques and observing results. Focus on natural, non-chemical management, but understand the importance of other approaches and apply when more appropriate. Spread various types of mulch products, mow and string-trim as needed.

Pruning. Understand uses, purposes & constraints of various pruning tools and techniques for normal plant needs, and also specialty situations, potentially including espalier, coppice and pollard. Use both hand and power tools. Learn about the purposes and style of pruning for various types of plants.

Pest management. Observe a variety of pests on a broad range of plants, evaluate the importance for taking action, apply the needed techniques for control and follow up with evaluation of results.

Tools & Equipment. Power machinery: golf carts, pickup truck, zero-radius 48" ride-on lawn mower, Mahindra tractor with attachments (buckets, U-blade digger, backhoe, chipper, mower), skid-steer equipment, larger mowers on Bobcats, etc.  
Hand tools including chainsaw, string trimmers, hand pruners, hand saws, pole saws/pruners, power & manual hedge shears, spades, shovels, picks, hoes, etc., backpack and hand sprayers.

To apply and for more information, please send your resume to

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