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2717 Tye Brook Hwy  
Piney River, VA 22964  
Phone: (434) 277-5455  
FAX: (434)277-8010

## **NewGen® Boxwood Research Technician**

November 14, 2023

**Job Description:** Saunders Genetics, a subsidiary of Saunders Brothers, is the creator of NewGen® Boxwood. The mission of NewGen® Boxwood is to find solutions to boxwood problems, the number one ornamental plant in the US, by introducing new cultivars to the market. The primary role of the NewGen® Boxwood Research Technician will be to help propagate, grow and test these new cultivars. Other responsibilities include help with breeding, seed collection, irrigation, planting, fertilizer management, transplanting, and scouting for insects and diseases in both potted plants and older stock plants. Travel to our off-site trial greenhouse and test plots involves working with boxwood blight inoculation, leafminer, and data collection.

### **Requirements and duties would include the following:**

#### **In Piney River, VA**

- Daily inventory, identification, oversight, organization, and maintenance of boxwood in greenhouses and field including watering, weeding, potting, and scouting.
- Helping to screen for insect and disease resistance, landscape performance, ease of growing, and overall superior attributes.

#### **Near Mt. Airy, NC**

- Planting, inoculation, blight and leafminer data collection, and maintenance in our research facility near Mt. Airy, NC.

### **Qualifications:**

- Strong preference for a B.S. or M.S. degree in horticulture or related field or commensurate experience.
- Nursery and/or greenhouse plant production experience preferred.
- Some laboratory experience and/or experience in agricultural research including experimental design, data collection and simple statistics is preferred.
- Must have proficiency in Excel and working knowledge of other Microsoft Office products.
- Strong preference for Spanish language proficiency.
- Must have good organizational skills, be able to prioritize workload, and have flexibility as work demands change. The ability to work with and manage a high level of detailed information is a must.
- Must be willing to travel 20-30 days/ year to our North Carolina Research facility near Mt. Airy, NC during the year with some overnight stays in the area.
- Must have good communication skills and be able to effectively work with other staff members including Spanish-speaking workers.
- Must have a valid Driver's License.
- Must be physically capable of performing the responsibilities and requirements of this position, including the ability and willingness to work in nursery/ greenhouse environment that would include reasonable physical fitness.

**Supervisor:** This position will answer directly to the General Manager of Saunders Genetics.

**Pay and Benefits:** We offer a competitive salary, health insurance, vacation package, short-term disability insurance, 401k package (eligible after 1 year of employment), and employee pricing on plants and farm market items. We also offer professional development opportunities for staff. This is a full-time, on site, year-round position.

**Drug Testing and Background Checks:** Saunders Brothers is committed to providing a drug-free and safe workplace. Therefore, all employees are subject to random drug testing, reasonable suspicion testing, and post-accident testing. In addition, all new employees will be subject to a background check.

**Start Date:** As soon as filled.

**Information and Application:** Saunders Brothers Inc. is comfortably situated on the sunny side of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Located less than 1 hour from the renowned University of Virginia medical center and Liberty University, Nelson County has numerous opportunities for hiking, biking, fishing, and skiing. Company perks include discounts at our retail Farm Market that include seasonal fruit from our orchards, family-raised meats and wholesale pricing on plants grown on our farm.

Contact Mari Johnson at [jobs@saundersbrothers.com](mailto:jobs@saundersbrothers.com). The job description may be seen at [www.saundersbrothers.com](http://www.saundersbrothers.com) and the application can be downloaded or completed on our website. Application must be submitted with resume to be considered.

## **Saunders Brothers Core Values**

**Faith-** Our Core Values and business practices are directed by our Christian faith.

**Integrity-** Honesty and truthfulness are foundational to our business and we seek to do what is morally and ethically right.

**Passion-** We strive to enthusiastically share our love for Agriculture by connecting people with plants, fruit, and the farm.

**Family-** The Saunders Brothers' Family includes and fosters many diverse families, generations, races, religions, and nationalities.

## **Business Purpose**

To make a profit doing something we love.

To have a positive impact on our employees, customers, suppliers, community, and environment.

To provide a productive, nurturing, and fulfilling environment for our team.

## **Strategy**

To be a premier supplier of superb-quality plant material for garden centers, landscapers, and public gardens throughout the Eastern United States.

To be a premier supplier of extraordinary fruit to the people of the Mid-Atlantic