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Production Manager and Head Woody Container Grower

Position Description

Position Description: Saunders Brothers, Inc. (SBI) is a wholesale nursery and orchard in central Virginia. Saunders Brothers is looking for an individual to serve as head grower and production manager for our woody container production. This individual must have a broad knowledge of production planning as well as growing practices to produce a high-quality product.

Expectations:

- Schedule all woody container production.
- Provide a production plan for propagation of liners for both container and field production and assist in its execution.
- Source all liners, shifts, and plant tags from external vendors and/or SBI's internal propagation.
- Provide a production plan for finished plants to the woody growers and assist in its execution.
- Work closely with SBI Sales Staff to schedule crop finish times and quantities based on customer demand, crop sell -through, profitability, and meeting appropriate sales windows.
- Manage space allocation and maximize efficiency of all container woody crops. Also, work closely with Color Production Manager to maximize and share production space of entire container operation.
- Provide support and oversee woody team in producing and maintaining plants from time of planting to sale. Assist growers to assess plant needs, spacing, pruning, insects, diseases and other factors that affect ability to meet production goals, timelines, and quality expectations.
- Work closely with SBI Color Production Manager and Harewood Production Team to better understand entire production plan of SBI.
- Work closely with SBI Plant Research & Development to evaluate new plants and opportunities.
- Adhere to core values, business strategy, and purpose of SBI.
- Must be willing to travel and participate in industry related trade shows, events and organizations.
- Must be able to physically perform the requirements of this position.
- Must be able and willing to work outside in all types of weather.

Qualifications

- Prefer to have a minimum of a four-year college degree in horticulture or related field and four years of post-college work experience in a horticultural field or two-year college degree in horticulture or related field and six years of post-college work experience in a horticultural field.
- Production and growing experience are necessary.
- Three years of supervisory experience are preferred.
- Must have knowledge of the horticultural industry.

- Must have excellent communication skills and ability to work effectively with other staff members and management.
- Must have excellent organizational skills and have flexibility as work demands change.
- Must have the ability to handle multiple tasks and to prioritize workload.
- Must have excellent computer skills including Microsoft Outlook, Excel, and Word.
- Must live within reasonable commute of SBI.

Supervisor: This position will answer to the General Manager of Saunders Brothers, Inc.

Hours: Monday through Friday 7:45 AM to 5:00 PM with a one hour for lunch. Must be willing to work Saturdays during production season on a rotating schedule. Must be willing to work additional hours as seasons/workload/weather events dictate.

Pay and Benefits: We offer a competitive salary, spring bonus, fall bonus, health insurance, vacation package, retirement bonus, and employee pricing on plants and farm market items. We also offer professional training and staff development for staff. This is a full-time 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.

Information and Application: Contact Mari Johnson at jobs@saundersbrothers.com . The job description may be seen at www.saundersbrothers.com and the application downloaded from the website. Application must be submitted with resume in order to be considered.

Start Date: As soon as a qualified applicant is identified.

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.

Passion- We strive to enthusiastically share our love for Agriculture.

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 area.