

Post: Horticulturist (Benmore Botanic Garden)
Department: Benmore
Division: Horticulture and Learning

Job Description

Key Responsibilities

- To operate best working practices and ensure all tasks undertaken are carried out safely and in accordance with the health and safety policy statements for the Horticulture division
- Development and maintenance of plants within the living collection, including removal of dead plants, planting new material, installing plant protection and mulching to suppress weeds and encourage plant establishment
- Assist in the removal of *Rhododendron ponticum* and other woody re-gen to prevent encroachment in planted areas and to lessen the potential for the spread of pests and diseases
- Carry out operations with awareness that fungal pathogens are present in the garden and take appropriate steps to minimise the risk of spread
- Participate in and contribute towards new and existing projects at Benmore
- Work with students and assist with the schools education programme
- General horticultural machinery operation
- Assist and have an interaction with garden visitors and garden guides, passing on information about the garden and its plants
- General horticultural activities including grass cutting, brush cutting and strimming, hedge cutting, fertiliser application, chipping and tractor work. In addition there may be opportunities for chainsaw operations and pesticide application with the relevant certification
- Any other appropriate duties as requested by your line management team

Specific Responsibilities

- Understand the remit of the RBGE, its mission statement and how it relates to Benmore
- Uptake opportunities for training and self-develop in the workplace
- Work positively, effectively and cooperatively as part of the Benmore team but with some lone working
- Shared responsibility for propagation and maintenance of the plant collection within the Benmore nursery including maintain records of applications of fertilisers, pesticides and biological controls used and ensuring plants are labelled and stocktakes are databased
- Maintenance of the plant collection within the 'Younger Walk' area of Benmore to include maintaining records of applications of fertilisers, pesticides and biological controls used and ensuring plants are labelled and stocktakes are databased
- Assist with the removal of *Rhododendron ponticum* to prevent encroachment in planted areas and lessen the potential for spread of pests and fungal diseases
- Carry out remedial works to paths, steps, handrails and water traps
- Assist with the programme of planting woody and herbaceous species

- Clearance of winter debris from paths, beds and turf areas
- Maintenance of plant collection within Eachaig Arboretum area of Benmore

Person Specification

Skills/Aptitude	Essential	Desirable
Team worker with positive outlook	*	
Good communication skills both verbal and written	*	
Flexible approach to working practices	*	
Horticultural practice, machinery operations and maintenance	*	
ICT literate	*	
Liaising with visitors and school groups	*	

Knowledge	Essential	Desirable
Plant knowledge including pests and diseases	*	
Experience of a range of methods of propagation and plant husbandry in a nursery situation		*
Plant database recording		*
Good understanding of health and safety practices	*	
Tree Hazard Inspection		*
Machinery maintenance	*	

Professional Qualifications	Essential	Desirable
Recognised horticultural qualification	*	
PA1, PA6, PA9		*
Chainsaw certification – CS30/CS31		*
Certification in a range of horticultural equipment		*
Professional Tree Inspection certification		*
Driving licence	*	
Current first aid at work certificate		*