

Post: Horticulturist
Department: Benmore
Division: Horticulture

Job Description

Key Responsibilities

- 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
- General horticultural activities including grass cutting, brush cutting and strimming, hedge cutting, fertiliser application, chipping, and tractor work, ensuring all tasks are undertaken in line with best practice and conducted safely and in accordance with our health and safety policy/risk assessments
- There may be opportunities for both chainsaw operation and pesticide application where appropriate certification is held
- General horticultural machinery operation
- Assist in the removal of *Rhododendron ponticum* and other pathogens to minimise the spread of pests and diseases
- Regular interaction with garden visitors and our garden guides, passing on information about the garden and its plants
- Work with students and assist with our school's education programme
- Courtyard Gallery Work
- Assist with fire alarm testing
- Participate in weekend duty on a roster basis
- Any other appropriate duties as requested by your line management team

Workplan

- Maintenance of the plant collection within a designated 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
- 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
- Assist with the programme of planting woody and herbaceous species
- Assist with the removal of *Rhododendron ponticum* and other species to prevent spread of pests and fungal diseases
- Carry out remedial works to paths, steps, handrails, and water traps
- Uptake opportunities for training and self-develop in the workplace

Person Specification

Skills/Aptitude	Essential	Desirable
Work positively, effectively, and cooperatively as part of the Benmore team but with some lone working	*	
Good communication skills both verbal and written	*	
Flexible approach to working practices	*	
Horticultural practice, machinery operations and maintenance	*	
Good ICT skills including use of Microsoft packages and plant records databases such as IRIS-BG	*	
Liaising with visitors and school groups	*	
Knowledge	Essential	Desirable
Plant knowledge including pests and diseases	*	
Plant database recording		*
Good understanding of H & S practices	*	
Tree hazard inspection		*
Machinery maintenance	*	
Professional Qualifications	Essential	Desirable
National Certificate, SVQ Level 2 or equivalent practical work experience	*	
Lantra or equivalent certification in a range of horticultural equipment, e.g., tractor driving, mowers, strimmer's etc		*
CS30/31 chainsaw certification		*
Professional tree inspection		*
PA1, PA6 and PA9 spraying certification	*	
Valid full driving licence	*	
Current first aid at work certification or be willing to work towards		*