



SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN POSITION DESCRIPTION

Rare Plant Technician Level 1B – Nursery Focus

About the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden:

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's mission is to conserve California native plants and habitats for the health and well-being of people and the planet. Since the 1930s, staff members of the Garden have developed and maintained an intimate knowledge of the California flora, with an emphasis on the plants and vegetation communities of California's Central Coast and the offshore islands. Today, we take a comprehensive approach to its conservation from genes to ecosystems, with plant systematics, rare plant conservation, community ecology and habitat restoration functions. This allows us to more thoroughly tackle the conservation challenges of our day, such as habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species, and climate change.

Overview:

The Rare Plant Technician assists with a range of field, lab, and office work supporting the inventory, conservation, and restoration of California's flora. Roles and responsibilities for this position will emphasize greenhouse work, seed cleaning, seed bank curation and fieldwork. This full-time (40 hours per week), non-exempt position reports to the Rare Plant Biologist and works primarily with the Rare Plant Conservation Team. The term for this position is 12 months, with the potential to extend the appointment based on funding availability and performance. Ability to work a shifted schedule that includes one weekend day during certain seasons is preferred.

Nursery, Office and Laboratory Duties (~70%):

- Conduct greenhouse work, including germination studies, hand pollinations and seed bulking
- Clean and curate seeds for conservation, research and restoration
- Enter data and assist with database management for conservation seed collections and research projects
- Summarize data and contribute tables to reports
- Train and assist volunteers in seed cleaning
- Contribute to education/outreach/communications by creating social media posts, working with interns, or presenting research

Fieldwork Duties (~30%):

- Participate in field work, including rare plant recovery, native seed collection, seeding and outplanting on single and multi-day field trips
- Collect data using handheld GPS and Collector for ArcGIS
- Collect seeds according to national and international best practices for rare plant conservation
- Collect and curate herbarium specimens

Knowledge and Abilities:

- Experience with and knowledge of basic taxonomic principles, botany, and ecology
- Knowledge of and experience with the California flora
- Experience growing and caring for plants in a nursery or research setting
- Ability to follow instructions, work successfully with others, and work independently with minimal supervision
- Visual acuity, manual dexterity and attention to detail sufficient to clean seeds proficiently

- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines
- Computer proficiency including ability to use Microsoft Outlook, Excel, Word, and PowerPoint, and ability to learn new computer programs as necessary
- Excellent attention to detail and strong organizational skills
- Ability to communicate well both verbally and in writing
- Willingness and ability to work cooperatively with peers at the Garden and other institutions
- Support for the Garden's mission and goals

Minimum Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university in biology, ecology, botany, environmental science, conservation biology, or closely related area
- Two or more full-time years (or equivalent) of relevant experience preferred

Certificates and Licenses:

- Must have valid California Driver License and maintain an acceptable driving record

Physical Requirements:

Must be capable of occasional strenuous physical work including:

- Working outdoors in a nursery setting and in the field in variable weather conditions
- Sitting for up to 2 hours at a time and using computer or microscope for lengthy periods
- Standing/walking for extended periods of time
- Periodically working long field days, sometimes in excess of 10-12 hours
- Bending, squatting, walking stairs, and hiking rugged trails with uneven footing
- Safely lifting and carrying 40 lbs.
- Tolerance of an outdoor work environment. Exposure to indoor and outdoor environmental conditions, including temperature fluctuations, rain, dust, allergens, poison oak, insects, wild animals, and sun exposure

Compensation

\$17 - \$19/hour, commensurate with experience

Expected Timeline

An ideal candidate for this position will be available to begin work in January 2022.

Interested applicants should apply via our website:

<https://recruiting.paylocity.com/recruiting/jobs/Details/790149/SANTA-BARBARA-BOTANIC-GARDEN-INC/Rare-Plant-Technician-Level-1B-Nursery-Focus>