



Assistant Farm Manager
Full-Time (hourly) with benefits
Based at the Tucson Conservation Center
Pay range: \$17/hr - \$20/hr

Native Seeds/SEARCH is a non-profit that conserves and promotes the food and farming traditions of the Desert Southwest. Our collection of arid-adapted, open-pollinated seeds has cultural roots in over 50 Indigenous and other communities. The Assistant Farm Manager will play a key role in maintaining and expanding the Tucson Conservation Center Farm and gardens to increase the supply of arid-adapted seed for the seed bank and public distribution.

The ideal candidate should have experience growing food or landscaping in arid lands, and prior experience with communities in the US Southwest or Mexico (experience can be social, familial or educational). Through this position, the candidate will gain extensive experience in seed production, soil management, farm planning, and conservation. There are also opportunities to grow professionally by attending conferences, technical meetings or workshops with partners around the Southwest region. This is a full-time, hourly paid position with benefits based at the Tucson Conservation Center that will report to the Conservation Garden Farmer. Wages for this position will be determined by knowledge and experience within the published range.

Responsibilities of the Assistant Farm Manager:

Seed & Plant Production:

- Support the Conservation Garden Farmer in all aspects of arid-adapted seed production, including: direct-sowing seeds, raising transplants, selecting, rouging, and harvesting mature, healthy seeds at the Conservation Center Farm and off-site locations
- Manage weeds, pests, and pathogens with appropriate organic control methods
- Amend soil with cover crops, compost, and mineral nutrients to meet plant needs
- Monitor and trap pest animals and insects in accordance with IPM protocols
- Collect agronomic data on seed grow-outs, including yield, pest and pathogen issues, and phenotypic traits for internal use and to share with other seed growers
- Raise transplants and propagate trees for plant sales, site development, and donations
- Cover weekend watering and garden responsibilities in rotation with other garden staff

Site Development & Maintenance:

- Safely operate tractors and other farm vehicles and machinery
- Build and manage composting systems to maximize biological activity and diversity
- Design and build water retention earthworks to capture rainfall and mitigate flooding
- Support farm design and site development to increase grow-out space and seed yield
- Maintain and repair irrigation systems, hand tools, and mechanical equipment

Supervision:

- Collaborate with Conservation Garden Farmer to develop weekly farm work plan
- Help oversee, coordinate, and instruct apprentices, Americorps members, and volunteers to execute farm work plan activities
- Coordinate volunteer work in gardens twice weekly and for periodic volunteer events

Education & Outreach:

- Support educational events, videos, and workshops as needed
- Regularly facilitate tours of the Conservation Center Farm and Seed Bank

Required Qualifications:

- Three years of experience farming, gardening, or landscaping
- Experience working with or supervising staff and volunteers in an agriculture setting
- Prior experience with communities in the US Southwest or Mexico (experience can be social, familial or educational)
- Experience with irrigation, carpentry, and/or mechanical repair
- Experience working both as part of and leading a team
- Experience working independently and completing a long-term project
- Flexibility to a seasonal schedule, including 6 am start time in summers, weekend events and watering duties.
- Ability to occasionally lift up to 40 lbs and tolerate working outdoors for long periods of time in temperatures 100°F+
- Valid Driver's License

Desired Knowledge, Skills & Abilities:

- Commitment to NS/S's Mission of seed saving, conservation, and education
- Spanish language ability
- Experience public speaking and/or supporting educational trainings

TO APPLY:

- Please submit a cover letter and CV to: maidenanna@gmail.com
- Deadline is May 10, 2024, but we will be conducting interviews on a rolling basis and recommend applying as soon as possible
- Target start date is June 3, 2024 or sooner

NS/S is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all state and federal laws for fair and lawful hiring. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, or veteran status.