



**Seasonal Farm Assistant**  
**Based at the Tucson Conservation Center**  
**Pay range: \$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 Farm assistant will play a key role in maintaining and expanding the Tucson Conservation Center Farm.

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). The candidate will gain extensive experience in seed production, soil management, farm planning, and conservation. This is a seasonal, part-time (25 - 30 hours/week) hourly paid position that will report to the Farm Manager.

**Responsibilities:**

**Seed & Plant Production:**

- Support the Farm Manager 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 farm vehicles and machinery
- Build and manage composting systems to maximize biological activity and diversity
- Maintain and repair irrigation systems, hand tools, and mechanical equipment

**Required Qualifications:**

- Experience farming, gardening, or landscaping
- Prior experience with communities in the US Southwest or Mexico (experience can be social, familial or educational)
- Experience working as part of a team and also able to work independently
- Availability for a 6 am start time and for weekend events and watering duties as needed

- 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 to drive the company truck to offsite growing fields

**TO APPLY:**

- Please submit a cover letter and CV to: [employment@nativeseeds.org](mailto:employment@nativeseeds.org)
- Target start date is June 3, 2024
- Anticipated period of work is at least two months, with a possibility of extending up to six months

*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.*