



## **Native Seeds SEARCH**

**Position Announcement: Seed Production Technician, Tucson, Arizona  
February 2020**

Native Seeds/SEARCH (NS/S) is a nonprofit seed conservation organization based in Tucson, Arizona. Our mission is to conserve and promote the arid-adapted crop diversity of the Southwest in support of sustainable farming and food security. The NS/S seed collection focuses on open-pollinated varieties of corn, beans, squash and food and fiber plants traditionally grown by indigenous farmers of the Southwest and adapted to dryland conditions. Each year we regenerate a portion of the seed collection for conservation needs and to distribute to the public.

We are seeking an organized and team-oriented Seed Production Technician to maintain and expand the seed production area at our 6-acre Tucson growing site. This is a full-time, non-exempt position that oversees and performs all tasks associated with seed production. Benefits include health, dental, and vision benefits, and accrue up to 20 days of PTO each year. Come join our team!

### **Position Summary**

The Seed Production Technician is responsible for the development and maintenance of the Tucson Conservation Center seed production and demonstration garden areas. This position reports to the Conservation Program Manager and collaborates within the Conservation and Distribution departments to carry out production of crop seed to meet our seasonal goals. Our growing site is part of an educational center and the Seed Production Technician also engages regularly with the public, our staff, volunteers, and our partner farmers. Requires ability to travel locally and occasional work on weekends and evenings.

## **Essential Duties and Responsibilities**

- Responsibilities vary throughout the year and include soil maintenance, planting, weeding, pest control, hand-pollination, variety isolation, harvest, seed cleaning, and equipment maintenance
- Identify and respond to pests and plant diseases, using organic control methods
- Supervises and coordinates tasks for garden volunteers and interns
- Maintains production calendars, field notes, and accurate labeling and inventory of seed lots. Well-organized and attentive to detail.
- Maintain irrigation system, tools, and equipment; safely operate a BCS, weedeater, and other machinery as needed
- Maintain a small on-site compost system
- Help manage the expansion of the seed production area
- Maintains garden operating budget and prepares regular reports on status of growing season
- Collaborates with the conservation team to produce 1-2 public engagement events at our growing site; contributes to educational articles and other outreach as able.
- Drive locally on specific assignments; occasional travel outside of greater Tucson, AZ such as to meet with partner farmers and others as needed.
- Collaborates with local partners, growers and other Staff
- Other duties as assigned

## **Preferred Knowledge, Skills and Abilities**

- Knowledge of production agriculture, dry-land gardening methods and organic crop management preferred
- Effective communication skills and able to engage professionally with the public, staff, and volunteers
- Ability to self-manage, work well within a team, and supervise the work of others
- Good safety habits
- Basic level of computer skills including the use of spreadsheets
- Understands the mission, goals, and values of NS/S, and is able to make decisions that reflect them within the scope of this position
- Bi-lingual in English and Spanish or a southwestern indigenous language is a plus

## **Minimum Qualifications**

- Associates degree or higher in crop production, agronomy, horticulture, plant science or related field is preferred
- 2-3 years hands-on experience in agriculture
- Experience in tractor/implement operation and maintenance

- Physically capable of working outdoors in hot, cold, wet and dry conditions, and able to lift 50lbs. Exposure to pollen from crop and weed plants is expected
- A valid Arizona driver's license with a good driving record and valid insurance

### **Working Hours & Environment**

This is a non-exempt full-time position (40 hours per week). Most work is performed on weekdays but some weekend hours are required, as well as occasional evenings. Some local travel is expected.

### **To Apply**

Accepting applications through [March 15]. Compensation dependent upon skills, education and experience. Please submit your resume, cover letter, and three professional references via email to [employment@nativeseeds.org](mailto:employment@nativeseeds.org). Native Seeds/SEARCH is an EEOC employer. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform essential functions.