



Job title: Finished Lead Grower-in-Training

Supervisor: Al Lively

About Wenke Sunbelt Greenhouses:

Wenke Sunbelt Greenhouses is a large, family owned, vertically integrated production greenhouse established over 70 years ago. We have four locations in Kalamazoo, MI and one in Douglas, GA. We grow and sell flowers year-round. Our main crops are annual bedding plants, home-use vegetables, perennials, poinsettias, and indoor plants. These crops are sold to garden centers, hardware stores and landscapers; the Kalamazoo Flower Group (broker), as well as starter plants to other growers. We also have a successful retail store servicing Kalamazoo.

We are an industry leader producing flowers that make people happier and healthier. We are known by our customers for quality and being the easiest company to do business with. We focus on efficiency and continuous improvement. We value our employees and offer the opportunity for a positive work/life balance.

General Information about Job:

The Lead Grower-in-Training is a section grower who is also the understudy to the Lead Grower. He/She has direct crop growing responsibilities including watering, fertilizing, chemical applications, scouting, environment management and more. In addition, the Lead Grower-in-Training is starting to take further responsibilities for utilizing the environmental controls, training others, communication about the crop and more.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Watering and fertilizing the crop by hand-watering with a hose, boom, and/or drip irrigation
- Chemical applications (plant growth regulators, insecticides, fungicides, etc.)
- Soil testing to determine crop pH/EC
- Use of beneficial bugs to replace pesticides where possible
- Disease/pest scouting and prevention
- Operate the environmental controls for light, shade, vents, temperatures affect crop growth
- Communication about needed crop care and concerns (pinching, spacing, statuses
- Facility/equipment maintenance
- Under the Lead Grower's direction, coordinate, train, and supervise section growers and grower trainees to ensure that they are getting their responsibilities for the crops completed.
- Understand and carry out both the safety rules and the company policies consistently and fairly.
- Potential involvement with the Move & Space supervisor for spacing and moving crops
- Potential involvement with the Pinch/Trim/Patch supervisor for plant maintenance
- Assist with grower meetings, note taking and following up to implement changes from meetings.

Schedule / work hours (varies depending on season):

- Full-Time; year-round
- Additional hours including weekends and evenings expected during peak season (March-May)
- Participate in the rotation for weekend and evening work during other times of the year.

Skills Needed to be Successful:

- Foundational knowledge about how to grow a quality crop with our facilities, equipment, and environment.
- Solid understanding of both conventional and more natural chemicals, (fertilizer, plant growth regulators, fungicides, insecticides) beneficials and application methods.
- Awareness of common plant pest and disease issues, their prevention, and treatments.
- Grasp on computerized environmental controls
- Desire to continuously improve and learn. Capacity to seek out information.
- Ability to manage and lead other growers while also being a part of the team.
- Willingness to take responsibility and make decisions.
- Basic understanding about the costs of production in consideration with the selling price.
- MI Pesticide Applicator's License.
- Mechanical skills beneficial.
- Ability to speak Spanish helpful.

Experience Required:

- 3-5 years of prior growing experience with annuals and/or perennials

Compensation:

- Hourly rate based on experience and responsibilities.
- Health, dental, vacation and sick time available if working full-time
- Excellent 401K available after 6 months of employment
- Plant discounts

Send Resume to ehollman@wenkegreenhouses.com or apply in person at 2525 North 30th Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49048.

Apply Here

