



### **JOB POSTING:**

**Native Plant Nursery Staff – A position for youth up to age 30 at starting day**

**Full-time, fixed-term contract (35 hours/week, Starting April, 2022 for 8 weeks or longer)**

**Compensation –at least \$17/hr and dependent on qualifications, skill and experience**

### **PROJECT OUTLINE:**

**Native Plants in Claremont** is a nursery devoted to the increased awareness and restoration of Ontario's native plants and their habitats; to growing a large diversity of quality native plants and to providing an enhanced retail experience for our customers. The nursery was opened in 2006. Proprietor Karen Abrahams operates Native Plants in Claremont with her husband Robert and their knowledgeable staff and share the love of Ontario's natural areas and native flora with native plant gardeners across the Greater Toronto Area. Duffins Creek flows through our 15 acre nursery property, conveniently located in Ontario's Greenbelt land in picturesque Claremont (north Pickering). At Native Plants in Claremont we specialize in sustainably harvested seed grown, native perennial wildflowers, grasses and shrubs. We are a fairly small, manually operated nursery. We supply plants to conservation agencies, wholesale customers such as landscapers, schools and nurseries and to the public for their home gardens. We value a healthy, natural environment, showing respect to our staff and customers, operating with integrity and lifelong learning. We love establishing connections within our community. We value a diverse staff and encourage all cultures and black, indigenous and people of colour to apply.

### **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

This project will involve the participant in all aspects of growing, caring for, selling and promoting our native wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs and in maintaining the greenhouses and outdoor nursery area; including:

- transplanting young seedlings and bare root shrubs into pots for sale and distribution. Transplanting includes moving large bales of soil, mixing the soil with water and fertilizer, setting up trays of pots, filling pots with the moist soil, moving the seedlings from the germination trays to the new pots and moving the trays outdoors to where they will stay until they are sold.
- Watering, fertilizing and weeding the plants;
- Establishing compost bins and learning about the complex biology and benefits associated with properly made compost;
- Establishing, weeding and enhancing seed orchards and gardens on the property. These orchards/gardens are beautiful, help pollinators and the broader environment, demonstrate possibilities for our customers and provide a source of seed for future growing.
- Recycling of soils, plastics and shipping materials; including washing returned pots and trays for re-use.
- Providing friendly customer service and discussing with customers about the importance of restoring and sustaining our natural habitats and ecosystems and the benefits of native plants, orienting customers to the layout of the nursery and helping customers with their purchases.
- Participating in community events and tours to profile native plants;
- Preparing boxed plants which we courier each week.
- \*Note - the potential exists for training for an ongoing supervisory role.

#### **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Knowledge of keen desire to learn about native plants and their habitats and their role in restoring the health of our landscapes and in improving habitat;
- Experience and involvement in and passion for the natural environment, gardening and restoration work;
- A desire to learn about over 100 species of Ontario's native plants and their essential role in our healthy environments, about interesting planting projects and related initiatives being undertaken by various customers across the GTA, and about the native plant industry;
- Educational background or a demonstrated interest in the field of ecology, botany, wildlife management, landscape architecture and design, environmental restoration, natural heritage OR a related environmental field
- Interest in undertaking training to prepare for a supervisory role;
- Desire to work with a diversity of people and backgrounds and share experiences;
- Strong listening skills;
- Attraction to and ability to participate in an active, fast-paced work environment;

- This job requires a good level of physical fitness as there is much lifting, bending, and walking with trays and we are quite busy, especially in May when so many of our customers want their plants. There is a need to work both efficiently and safely;
- A passion for being and working outdoors. All our duties will be done outside or in the greenhouse when the weather will range from cold to hot and from wet to dry. It is not uncommon to get sweaty and muddy and wet from hoses while completing our required tasks;
- Demonstrated experience or interest in working in a team environment and the desire to share and learn by group discussions about related topics as we all work together;
- Willingness to communicate skillfully with staff and customers about our passion for the native plants and their habitats and the work we do in growing them.
- Ability to travel to our site for scheduled shifts.

**Applications, including a resume and cover email, are to be submitted to Native Plants in Claremont via email: [info@nativeplants.ca](mailto:info@nativeplants.ca)**

**Applications are requested ASAP as this job will begin in April, 2022.**