



Senior Horticulturist (Glasshouses)

January 2022

Overview

Post Title	Senior Horticulturist
Department	Horticulture
Garden areas	Great Glasshouse, Tropical House, Nursery Glasshouses
Reports to	Horticulture Supervisor
Responsible for	Horticulturists, apprentices & volunteers
Contract type	Permanent

INTRODUCTION

The National Botanic Garden of Wales ('NBG Wales') seeks a talented horticulturist, with an advanced understanding of horticulture, plant conservation and botanical research, to develop the living collections in the Great Glasshouse, Tropical House and Nursery Glasshouses.

The **Great Glasshouse** is one of the premier public glasshouses and conservation resources in the world. The Foster and Partners design exhibit some of the world's rarest plants, with six Mediterranean climate zones represented. The **Tropical House**, situated in the Double Walled Garden, features a diverse collection and brings the tropics to Wales. The House is an important teaching resource for school and educational groups. The public glasshouse collections are supported by the **Nursery**. Three glasshouses with varying temperature regimes are used for the propagation of the collections. Built in 1999, the Nursery features modern climate control and automated technology to provide optimised and stable conditions for plant growth and development. The successful applicant will possess the experience, knowledge and skills required to advance the collections, increase visitor engagement and share their passion for plants, in support of NBG Wales' mission and strategic objectives.

ORGANISATION

NBG Wales is accredited by Botanic Garden Conservation International and Wales' national botanic garden. As a centre of expertise for biodiversity conservation, education, research, and horticulture, NBG Wales has become an established national institution since opening in 2000, working with partners throughout Wales and internationally. Based in Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire, the 568-acre estate includes living collections, curated gardens and Waun Las National Nature Reserve. On-site facilities include classrooms, laboratories and the National Seed Bank of Wales.

With 120 staff members, NBG Wales is a diverse organisation delivering a wide range of services and public benefits. As a tourism destination, NBG Wales attracts 160,000 visitors and 25,000 learners annually. Working nationally, projects such as 'Growing the Future' and 'Biophillic Wales' help support education, engagement and community horticulture. Partnerships with universities and conservation practitioners foster collaborative research and conservation, collectively advancing the understanding and preservation of Wales' natural heritage. To learn more, visit botanicgarden.wales.



KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1	Manage, maintain and enhance the living collections featured in the Great Glasshouse, Tropical Glasshouse, Nursery Houses including the Plant Reception Facility.
2	Lead and manage a team of horticulturists, apprentices and volunteers, promoting exemplary work practices, providing guidance and support when required.
3	Keep accurate and data-rich plant records on the Iris BG Collection Management system, and maintain labels.
4	Plan and prioritise propagation of the living collections to ensure sufficient plant material is available and ready for display.
5	Research and propose plant acquisitions, ensuring that plant materials selected are available from sustainable, fair and equitable sources.
6	Oversee a programme of integrated pest management and biosecurity procedures for garden areas of responsibility.
7	Ensure all team members adhere to health and safety requirements.
8	Any other reasonable task assigned.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential	
1	Level two qualification in horticulture or equivalent (Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales).
2	Five years' experience in public garden horticulture, with evidence of competence, skill and an interest in the work of botanic gardens.
3	Experience of leading staff, learners and volunteers, providing guidance and support.
4	The ability to maintain accurate plant records, manage data and records in a database system and utilise it to analyse and present information.
5	Knowledge and experience working in compliance with health and safety standards and a commitment to creating a safe environment for all staff and visitors.
6	Affinity with, and a passion for, the mission and strategic aims of NBG Wales.
Desirable	
1	Experience of working in a botanic garden, botanical institution or conservation organisation focused on applied plant conservation.
2	Knowledge of integrated pest management and biosecurity theory and practices.
3	The possession of PA1 and PA6 or equivalent certificates, and prior experience in the safe application of COSHH regulated products.
4	Current and valid United Kingdom driving licence.
5	Proficiency in written and spoken Welsh.



POSITION DETAILS

This is a permanent position starting as soon as possible.

Hours of work are 37.5 per week, typically working from 8am to 4pm. Weekend work is expected on a rota basis. The salary is £22,000 pa, with an additional £2,000 pa skill allowance available for suitably qualified candidates.

Informal enquiries are welcome and should be directed to Alex Summers, Curator, at alex.summers@gardenofwales.org.uk.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications consisting of a current CV and cover letter, clearly explaining how you meet the essential criteria and what benefits you could bring to NBG Wales, together with the **full contact details of two referees**, should be sent to Anne-Maria Nicholas, Human Resources Manager at anne-maria.nicholas@gardenofwales.org.uk.

The closing date for applications is 0800 on 11 February 2022.

