



FRESH PRODUCE



Excellent Opportunity in our R&D Department

As the UK's largest independent soft fruit grower, we are extremely passionate about underpinning our growing techniques through our outstanding research and development programme.

Through our R&D programme, we are always looking for ways of producing the best quality fruits to continue delighting and exceeding the expectations of our customers and consumers.

We have an on-site analytical laboratory providing our growers with regular updates concerning the nutrient status of their crops. We also have an extensive soft fruit breeding programme enabling us to select and develop improved traits for future exclusive cultivars.

We are excited to offer the following full-time vacancy within our R&D department, based in Marden, Hereford:

Growing Assistant (Trainee) R&D

The role of the Growing Assistant (Trainee) R&D would be suitable for an applicant who is currently studying for a degree or other qualification in horticultural science or a related subject and is looking to get 'hand's on' experience in the soft fruit industry during a placement year. Alternatively, candidates who are enthusiastic and motivated and are looking to enter the horticultural sector will also be considered.

Are you the ideal candidate?

The successful candidate will be working alongside the R&D grower focusing on pest and disease management, and irrigation control, but will also have the opportunity to assist other team members to complete a wide range of tasks, developing skills in many other areas including; plant breeding, selection and assessment of new varieties, plant propagation, harvest management, etc.



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Day to day tasks will involve the application of plant protection products (after successful completion of PA1 and PA6 training), irrigation monitoring, and collating data on the new varieties being trialed to assist with the publication of final reports.

In-house training will be given in the use of Priva irrigation control software, as well as 1-2-1 mentoring with a view to providing the candidate with a solid foundation in commercial growing practices.

Qualifications: Ideally applicant will be working towards a HNC/HND in horticulture or a related subject although motivated entrants into the horticultural sector will be considered. Ideally qualified to PA1 and PA6 level in pesticide application although training will be provided. Previous experience in horticulture is preferred but not required.

The successful candidate will possess the following skills:

- Willingness to learn new skills and practical techniques and use them to work to a rigorously high standard
- Pro-active approach to work, ability to work unsupervised if required
- High attention to detail
- Good hand and eye coordination and the ability to use technical equipment with accuracy
- Good time management skills in order to work on several different projects at the same time
- Flexibility in order to work with and provide support for a number of people
- Excellent oral communication skills
- Good teamwork skills and the ability to work in a small group
- Good IT skills, familiar with the use of Microsoft office package

Our people are core to our business, and we are proud of providing a working environment that allows people to grow and develop in all areas of the business. The atmosphere at S&A is fast paced, exhilarating, and rewarding.

We offer a competitive salary, 33 days annual leave, pension contributions and scope to uncover your potential with a rapidly expanding, independent business. Please send applications via email to: jokennedy@sagroup.co.uk



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