**Trainee Role Description - Grower (Cut Flowers, Pollinators and Production)**

**1 post**

We grow organic produce at Hawkwood, Organiclea’s 12 acre community market garden and plant nursery, and distribute it to retail outlets, our own box scheme and local restaurants. In our ½ acre glasshouse we grow heritage tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, chillies and seedlings for sale to local people and community groups. In 2022 we produced over 10 tonnes of produce, including 2 tonnes of salad leaves, featuring 136 different varieties of leaf. Using a wide range of food production methods, we also expand our food production by producing supplementary products such as sprouted seeds and microgreens. In addition, we build upon the legacy of the BEE WILD project delivered here in 2018-20.

This project saw the development of bio-diverse areas across the site including cultivating flowering plants that not only support our pollinators but also serve well as cut flowers.

A placement within the production team at Hawkwood: this traineeship will suit someone looking to develop their skills as a sustainable flower farmer with pollinator focused activity, in a community garden setting. This work supports production activity during and outside of busy and diverse volunteering and training tasks. The trainee will learn a variety of growing skills with focussed time on the management of cut flower production and pollinator work at Hawkwood. You should be happy working independently, with the Organiclea Flower and Pollinator Worker, with the general production team and with volunteers.

# **Details of the role**

# Unpaid voluntary role

# Time commitment: 1 day/week for 9 months

* Dates: Wednesday 12 April - Wednesday 20 December 2023; shorter placements considered
* Hours: Wednesdays from 9.00am –5.00pm and 7:30am-3:30pm (June-October)
* Based at: Hawkwood Community Plant Nursery
* Occasional weekend commitments: Up to 4 days over the traineeship to support weekend outreach events, open days and plant and produce stalls

**Supported by:**

* monthly check-ins with an OrganicLea mentor
* quarterly discussion and learning workshop with peers and mentors
* general volunteer tutorials which happen over several months (Wednesday/ Friday) at the end of the working day
* travel expenses, within London, if needed
* bicycle repairs and servicing whilst-you-work for cyclists
* a seasonal, vegan, organic lunch will be provided on Wednesdays

**To apply please:**

1. Complete and return the OrganicLea application form and monitoring form, available on our website.
2. Indicate clearly which role(s) you are interested in. If you would like to apply for more than one trainee role please list your preferred 3 in order.
3. Send to: debbie@organiclea.org.uk or post to the Hawkwood Address for the attention of Debbie Ladds, OrganicLea, 115 Hawkwood Crescent, Chingford, E4 7UH.

**Deadline for applications: 9pm on Friday 17 February 2023**

**Interview date: Wednesday 15 March 2023**

For more information about the role, start by contacting Debbie at: debbie@organiclea.org.uk (Tuesdays and Fridays are good contact days).

# **Main objectives**

* To learn about and assist with propagation including in a glasshouse
* To learn about and assist with maintaining the flower and wildlife focused areas of the Hawkwood site
* To gain a basic understanding in providing habitat for pollinating insects
* To assist with harvesting and preparing produce in accordance with the needs of the OrganicLea stall, CSA customers, box scheme or other independent outlets
* To provide support for the production at Hawkwood
* To provide support for the volunteer programme

# **Main Activities**

# **Growing**

* Formulating propagation media
* Raising plants from seed or divisions
* Sprouting seeds
* Irrigation
* Planting and maintaining crops
* Organic weed, pest and disease management
* Harvesting schedules and techniques
* Undertake other activities in support of OrganicLea, as appropriate

# **Harvesting and Processing (June-October)**

* Cutting/picking flowers and foliage to the agreed methods, ensuring quality control
* Preparing produce according to requirements of orders
* Responding to excess produce with a variety of activities e.g. drying flowers, preserving

**Pollinators**

* Join the pollinator worker one afternoon per month including pollinator focused volunteer tasks.

**Working with volunteers**

* Work to ensure all volunteers on site are safe, welcomed, valued and supported
* Opportunity to lead tasks with volunteers

**Person Specification**

## **Essential**

* Interest in sustainable food/flower production and managing a site with a pollinator focus
* The desire to put the afore mentioned interest into practice
* Some experience of growing
* Ability to supervise and explain tasks to volunteers
* Happy to work mainly outdoors throughout the year
* Ability to carry out shared tasks and work within a team
* Ability to work on own initiative, prioritise tasks and work to deadlines
* Commitment to and understanding of the aims of OrganicLea

### **Desirable**

* Experience of working with volunteers
* Level 1 Horticulture qualification
* Experience of growing/maintaining flowers
* Comfortable around bees and other pollinators