



Ornamental Horticulture Research and Extension Internship at the Hammond Research Station

Interns will gain hands-on experience in multiple areas of ornamental horticulture. This internship will focus on current activities at the Hammond Research Station, which are based in landscape horticulture and nursery crop production. Interns will learn about plant trials, landscape curation, nursery production, greenhouse management and the ornamental horticulture industry. Interns will support faculty of the Hammond Research Station with research and Extension activities, as well as develop a summer project of their own. Interns can select from multiple possible project opportunities or assist in developing their own. Over the summer, interns will build skills associated with plant propagation, landscape maintenance, irrigation, pest management, nursery and greenhouse production, and data management.

Preferred Qualifications: We are seeking motivated individuals who are eager to learn and don't mind getting their hands dirty. Much of this internship will take place outdoors, where weather conditions can be hot and sunny. Anyone with an interest in ornamental horticulture, landscape science, or nursery production would be a perfect fit for this internship. Moreover, anyone interested in learning more about research and the role of extension would benefit from these internships.

Number of positions available for this placement: 3

Location: This internship is hands-on and will therefore be in-person at the Hammond Research Station in Hammond, LA. The Hammond Research Station is home to the Hammond Trial gardens, 30+ acres of ornamental trials, including, flowers, shrubs, trees, and some fruit crops, and is the preeminent destination for nursery and landscape research & extension in the state of Louisiana. At this time there is no on-site housing available.

Primary Mentor: Dr. Jeb Fields. JSFields@agcenter.lsu.edu; 985-543-4125

Secondary Mentor: Jason Stagg: JStagg@agcenter.lsu.edu; 985-543-4125

Anticipated Tasks:

Weeks 1-2

- Orientation and tour Hammond Research Station & Trial Gardens
- Learn the role of the Hammond Trial Gardens in the industry



- Visit nearby nurseries and/or landscape firm during Extension calls
- Develop a project plan

Weeks 3-8

- Maintain and collect data from research project
- Assist with current faculty and graduate student research projects
- Support on-going extension activities
- Participate in Hammond Trial Gardens in various roles, such as propagation, irrigation, planting, landscape maintenance, greenhouse management, mulching, weeding, pruning, etc.
- Photograph and catalog trial plants Weeks 9-10
- Analyze data and prepare project results for an outlet that best fits the student's career goals and interests (can be extension articles, scientific abstracts, presentation, etc.)

Expected Outcomes:

- Interns will learn the role of Extension in horticulture
- Interns will have designed and carried out a research project
- Interns will learn about horticulture, including plant material, the role of trial gardens, production practices and the ornamental horticultural industry
- Interns will develop skills to support career goals.

Evaluation measures unique to placement [beyond grant evaluation activity]:

Upon successful completion of internship, post-internship opportunities may exist for interns interested in publishing extension or research articles and presenting at a trade show/scientific meeting.