



Fruit Tree Specialist Position

Organization Background and Mission

City Fruit stewards and harvests urban fruit trees to support sustainable and equitable access to fruit. City Fruit was founded in 2008 to harvest excess fruit from Seattle's public and private fruit trees, and in recent years, has recognized that reclaiming the urban orchard begins with helping tree owners and public orchardists grow healthy fruit. Urban fruit trees are a valuable community resource, yet often preventable disease and pests hinder fruit production or orchardists and tree owners are unsure of how to prune or steward their trees to maximize the potential for abundant fruit growth. City Fruit works to protect urban fruit trees from pests and mismanagement, and provides assistance in harvesting, preserving, and sharing fruit among neighbors.

City Fruit's holistic approach at our urban fruit forest focuses on caring for the trees and training others to do so, harvesting and distributing this fruit through efforts that reinforce food justice and dignity, and seeking ways to create long-term sustainability of fruit.

Position Description

Type: Part-time, seasonal (Harvest season 2023)

This is an exciting opportunity for a focused and progressive-minded individual who is committed to social justice, education, and community engagement. City Fruit is seeking someone who has a vested interest in contributing to inclusive local food systems, promoting food justice, and helping neighbors cultivate their trees to produce good fruit that can be shared with the community. Your role is important in helping us cultivate and nourish relationships with private tree owners - a significant community we serve - by educating them on different techniques for fruit tree stewardship and helping them understand year-round tree care. This position works under our current Fruit Tree Specialist and is anticipated to be part-time from July to October, with full-time hours possible if there is demand among the community we serve. Depending on demand and the kinds of knowledge the hired candidate brings to the job, this position could become a permanent position.

Based in Seattle, WA, this job requires an individual willing to manage their daily work appointments, meet with clients (in a socially distant, outside environment), drive throughout the city, and work outside with fruit trees in varying conditions and weather. This role is almost 100% outdoors, and employees may work with tall, historic fruit trees (requiring some ladder work) and carry weight of up to 50 pounds.

As a Fruit Tree Specialist, you will be responsible for the following:

- Assessing, planting and/or transplanting, and stewarding (through actions such as pruning, mulching, netting, taping, etc) a wide variety of fruit-bearing trees including, but not limited to, apple, peach, pear, plum, cherry, quince, and more. These trees may be located on private or public lands.



- Providing tree owners with one-on-one feedback on their particular fruit trees and explaining any recommended pruning, mulching, or pest management strategies to ensure the health of their trees or fruit. (In some circumstances, tree owners may want to cut back the tree's fruit production for a variety of different reasons, in which the specialist should be able to make those suggestions as well.)
- In coordination with tree owners and/or the public land managers with whom City Fruit partners, creating and implementing a year-round tree care plan for tree(s).
- Abiding by Standard Operating Procedures, such as detailing interactions with tree owners and photo-documenting work.
- Maintaining positive relationships with stakeholders and contributing to City Fruit's education and outreach efforts regularly.
- Helping maintain City Fruit's tree care supplies.
- Anything and everything that contributes to a positive, fruitful outcome for Seattle's fruit trees and to create positive relationships within our urban hyperlocal food system.
- Able to work with limited budgets, work independently, track hours and document expenses, and balance and defend appropriate tree care with various stakeholders.

Applicant Requirements:

- Extraordinary oral and written communication skills. Ability to clearly communicate tree stewardship strategies and rationale for various approaches to year-round tree care.
- Self-motivated, with demonstrable creative and critical thinking capabilities.
- Able to work with limited supervision while onsite but able to document clearly what work has been done regularly.
- 3 - 5 years experience in a relevant agricultural role is preferred.
- Must be able to act on and share with others intimate knowledge of fruit trees. Bonus if that knowledge is specific to Seattle's microclimate. Additional knowledge areas that would be a bonus include: ancestral planting/complementary planting/permaculture; landscape and design of orchards and gardens; stormwater management and how to irrigate fruit trees.
- Ability to lift, push, & pull 50lbs and to scale trees as tall as 30'.
- Experience interpreting regulations on a municipal, state, and federal level.
- Ability to work comfortably outdoors in all seasons.
- An undergraduate degree with an applicable focus (environmental education, sustainable or urban agriculture, etc) or the equivalent in certificates and work experience.
- Willingness to do sometimes very long and varied or labor-intensive hours.
- Ability to multitask and work coolly and professionally in time sensitive situations or in situations where one's expertise may be challenged.
- Meticulous attention to detail.
- An understanding that many people own fruit trees in Seattle but may know nothing about their care.



Benefits and Perks:

- A committed team of supportive colleagues and partners working for socially just food systems
- Consistent reviews to assess progress and your own personal happiness
- Direct involvement in hyperlocal food systems and environmental efforts
- \$24-27/hr DOE and up to 15-35 hours a week, depending on selected candidate's availability and need.

To Apply

Thanks for reading! To be considered, please email info@cityfruit.org and include your resume, cover letter, and three references who can speak about your fruit tree or sustainable agriculture knowledge. No phone calls please.