

Greenhouse Internship

An Internship at Thorsen's Greenhouse by Richard Renton



“The Thorsen's Difference: Quality you can count on”



Introduction

I found this Internship through attending the Spring, 2020 CFAES Internship Fair.

There were so many companies so I had to narrow down the search to just a few companies that really caught my eye.

Thorsen's Greenhouse is a family company located in Delaware, Ohio that was established in the year 2000.

They do most of their business through wholesale with multiple Costco locations and also other wholesale buyers in the area including Oakland Nursery and Straders.

It was around a 30 minute drive every morning and since they started work at 7:00am I usually left the house around 6:15 every morning.

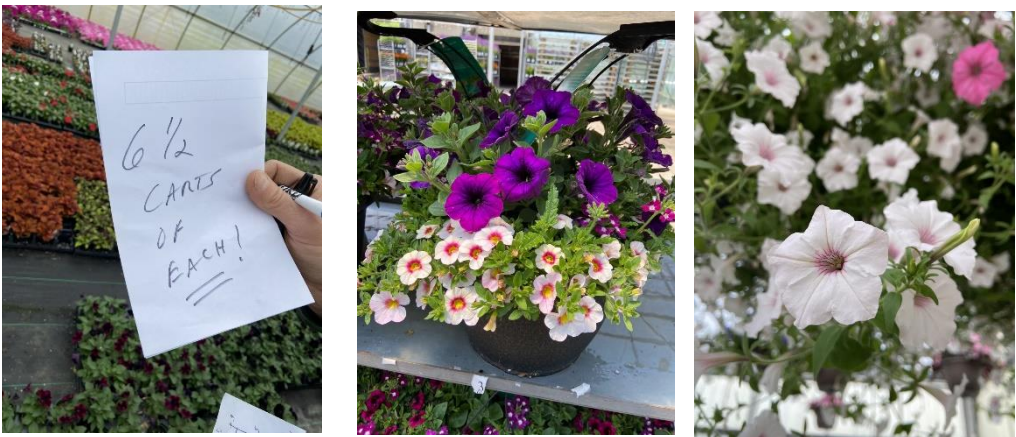
On The Job

The production team is responsible for ensuring the orders match what is getting put on the carts and sent out.



Each day we were responsible for selecting the best flowers available, setting them on carts, and watering them.

We also worked on the planting line and made combo pots.



For the last month of the internship I worked with growers in order to understand the day to day operations.

One of the most important parts of being a good grower is following the spraying, watering, and fertilizing schedules.

Error could result in undesired crop yields or total losses.

Outdoor Growing

I also had the opportunity to learn how to be involved in the setup process for some of the outdoor fields at Thorsen's Greenhouse.

I learned how to measure out the tarp and nail it in.

I also learned how to set up the irrigation drip lines and drip tape in the field.

On a weekly basis we had to check the lines a few times to ensure the water was getting to the plants.



Posing in the field with Chrysanthemums

We placed the designated amount of fertilizer into the cans where the irrigation pumps diluted the fertilizer and moved it into the water lines.



E-Commerce

I was able to get some experience within E-Commerce at Thorsen's Greenhouse this summer. We would be responsible for getting each order from the previous day packaged, labeled, and shipped. Since the plants are able to get to their respective destinations within a couple days, the plants turn out fine.

Although e-commerce is not where Thorsen's Greenhouse does most of their business, it is growing quickly.



Posing in the field with a Bella Palm

Reflection

I have a newfound respect for all of the hard work that comes with working at a greenhouse.

I enjoyed my time working with Thorsen's Greenhouse and I would recommend it to future interns.

Greenhouse work can be tough but at the end of the day you feel good that you did.



How much did it pay?

The pay was \$14 an hour plus 1.5x for overtime!



Viewing a pick list and supervising the sprinklers



Posing in the field with a petunia hanging basket



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