Summer Internship at Millcreek Gardens

Trent Gregory / Natural Resource Management

Background Information
This past summer, I worked for a plant nursery called Millcreek Gardens. Conveniently located about a 30-minute drive from campus in Ostrander, Ohio, they maintain over 95 greenhouses at a time. They are the source of plants for many well known retailers such as Oakland Nursery and Straders Garden Center. In addition to these larger plant stores they supply to smaller operations and different government agencies like the City of Dublin. They supply throughout Ohio and even surrounding states, showing daily that they truly live by their company motto.

Skills Learned
• Collected a vast range of plant maintenance knowledge
• Learned how to propagate cuttings at a wholesale level
• Increased plant identification skills
• Learned how to operate new machinery (tractor, potting machines, water related devices)
• Gained insight on how the business side of the operation is run

The Impacts and Pro #1 perennial head grower, Bryce Axelrod, showing me how he scouts his plants for any issues while checking the availability for customers.

The other intern and I were sent out to check on and water plants that needed it during the hot summer months.

During my time in production, we potted a lot of hanging baskets full of early mum production.

Right before I finished my internship, Millcreek was preparing their fall availability. Mums were a huge selection.

There was around 10 greenhouses with thousands of mums!

Special Opportunities
• Paid All-Access pass for Cultivate, one of the world's biggest horticulture expos
  • I attended classes, got to walk through the thousands of vendors on the trade floor, network with other professionals in the business, and got to gain knowledge I would have never of gotten
• Millcreek hosted many employee appreciation events and parties
• Given the task to find an issue Millcreek has and present a conclusion. Things I found included space issues are a big concern.
  • Here is space being used outside some greenhouses to hold more plants.

Additional Information
• Pay: $17/hr
  • Hours: 8-4 M-F (You will work 8-5 on the first month because of how busy it is)
• You work in a two-week rotation going through different departments
  • You need to be prepared for:
    • Outside/manual labor
    • Lifting

I can easily say that I loved my time at Millcreek. It opened my eyes to a future in horticulture and gave me the skills to pursue a career in that field. I loved what I did and could easily see myself making a career in that field moving forward. If you are interested in a similar experience reach out! Making connections and networks to get experience is one of the best ways to get a foot in the door. The horticulture business is always needing people so keep an eye out for jobs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
I would like to thank Millcreek as a whole for the opportunity they gave me this summer. Everyone was so nice and inviting and made working fun. I loved the internship and what I learned, and I am thankful for my time there.