

Garden Center Supervisor Internship

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Background

I worked for Shannon Landscape & Garden Center in Stratford, Connecticut from May 10th - August 15th 2021.

I found this internship online through an advertisement for the business. I emailed the supervisor inquiring about open positions.

The Garden Center portion of the Shannon business first opened this past May, therefore I was the first to hold the 'Garden Center Supervisor' position.

Mission

"Building better landscapes and better relationships one client at a time"

Garden Center Main Display Areas



On The Job

My main duties while on the job were:

- Hand watering the entire plant stock daily.
- Recording weekly inventory of stock.
- Unloading, tagging and aesthetic placement of incoming plant deliveries.
- Customer service. Aiding customers in selecting the appropriate varieties for their landscape.
- Working the register and answering phone.

Completing Daily Hand Watering In The Main Display Area

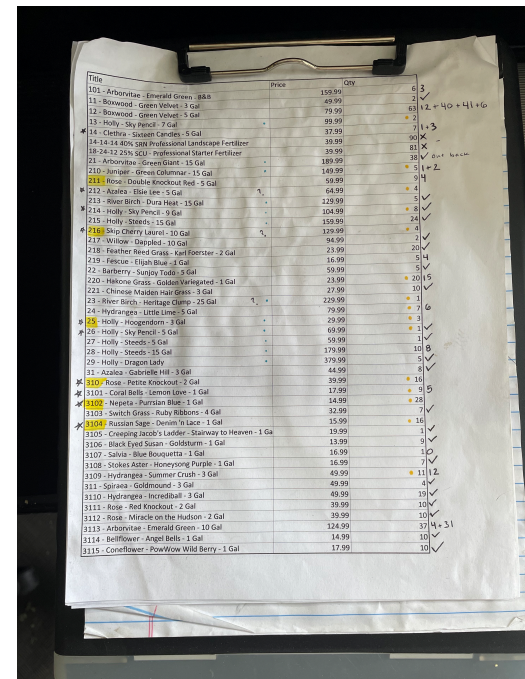


Daily Hand Watering

A main portion of my day at the Garden Center was spent hand watering each plant pot until thoroughly soaked. When temperatures reached 90 degrees it was required that I watered all plants twice. I completed my watering around noon and a second watering around 3:30.

Some varieties such as Bee Balm, Butterfly Bushes, Asters, and the small pot annuals required more water throughout the day.

Inventory List (on left) & My Sale Whiteboard Art (on right)



Recording Inventory

I was responsible for recording weekly inventory. To do so, I printed the current inventory, found each variety and recorded the current count. I would then input this into the Shopify computer system. This process would take 2-3 days to complete since we consistently stocked over 200 plant varieties.

Register Duties

In addition to garden center duties, I commonly covered the register and answered the phones. In the shop I aided customers in finding appropriate fertilizers, bird feed, garden tools and more. In order to do so I learned about each product and their appropriate use.

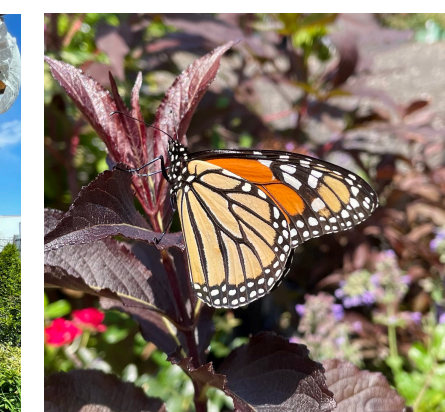
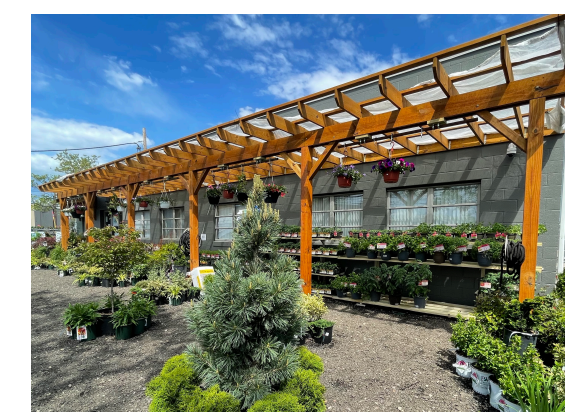


Register and Shop Front (on left) & Selection of Plant-Tone Organic Fertilizers (on right)



Garden Center Display Area Duties

As the Garden Center Supervisor I managed the front display area. I aided customers in selecting the appropriate plant varieties for their needs and environment. I memorized the names, growth habits and prices of all plant varieties in order to answer customer questions. Some customers sought out one specific plant, while others wished to redesign their entire yard. I encouraged customers to integrate native and pollinator varieties into each design or purchase.



Main Display Area, Monarch Visiting a Weigela Bush, Reserved Sold Area, on and Clematis Bijou

Organizing New Deliveries

From May-July the garden center received weekly deliveries on Thursday and Friday. I was responsible for tagging, pricing and organizing each pot. Once learning landscaping techniques from my supervisor, I was able to design the weekly layout for the display area and then unloaded the tagged plants into this design to create an aesthetic display.

Patio Pots That I Designed and Planted



Reflection

For the future I hope to have a career in community development, with a focus on urban sustainable agriculture. My experience at Shannon Garden Center allowed me to gain horticultural knowledge that is crucial for urban agriculture. I also developed the skills necessary to educate others about horticulture and their landscapes.

This internship built upon my preexistent interest in the enhancement of urban landscapes and the integration of green areas. I would love to find an internship geared more towards the community development side of my interests where I can apply the horticultural knowledge that I gained from this internship to real world scenarios.

Recommendations

- Don't be afraid to reach out to businesses and ask about open positions.
- Ask lots of questions to supervisors in order to get the most out of your experience.
- Remember the importance of memorization, attentiveness, and thoroughness.