Internship Descriptions for the Ecological Garden (EG)

2015-2016

**The General Ecological Garden Internship**

**Description and Responsibilities**

Interns participate in all aspects of garden maintenance in the Ecological Garden.  They will:

* dig garden beds
* sow seeds and transplant seedlings
* maintain the garden-scale composting system
* maintain paths
* care for the flock of laying hens
* manage weeds
* fertilize and irrigate plantings
* harvest produce
* contribute to overall garden planning
* introduce visitors to the site and guide them in activities
* care for perennial herbs and fruit trees
* help control pests

No previous gardening experience necessary. A minimum of 3 hours per week are required.  More than three hours/week are recommended.

**Materials**

Appropriate background references for this is internship are:

Gardening at the Dragon’s Gate by Wendy Johnson

Designing and Maintaining Your Edible Landscape Naturally by Robert Kourik

How to Grow More Vegetables by John Jeavons

Western Garden Book by Sunset

**Objectives—1st quarter**

After 30 hours in this internship, the student will have experienced the first 8 of these tasks with a trained garden lead one or more times. They will have contributed to EG management by working with a crew to accomplish work. They may have also had the opportunity to accomplish the last four tasks as well.

**Assessment—1st quarter**

Both the intern’s self-assessment and the supervisors’ assessment of progress will indicate advancement of 1 or more levels in at least 5 tasks.

**Objectives—2nd quarter**

After 60-90 hours in this internship, the student will have experienced the first 8 of these tasks with a trained garden lead 2 to 4 times. They will have contributed significantly to EG management by working with a crew to accomplish work. They also will have accomplished each of the last four tasks at least one time. They will have worked side-by-side with 1st quarter interns to accomplish 2 or more of the first 8 tasks and been able to share prior experience with new interns.

**Assessment—2nd quarter**

Both the intern’s self-assessment and the supervisors’ assessment of progress will indicate advancement of 1 or more levels in at least 5 tasks.

**Specialized EG Internships**

***(Require completion of one quarter as a general EG intern)***

**Worm Compost Management Internship - EG**

**Description and Responsibilities**

This internship involves taking primary responsibility for monitoring, feeding, harvesting, maintenance and repair of the two vermicompost systems in the Ecological Garden. These are the 4’x 8’ covered wooden box and the black plastic can of worms both located on the south side of the fieldhouse and chicken yard. Intern would work with EG leads as well as any EG interns and volunteers as needed. Responsibilities are the following:

* gain working understanding of both vermicompost systems
* each week obtain food waste from MG packing shed and/or Project Compost to feed the systems
* maintain appropriate moisture levels
* harvest finished compost and use in EG
* lead other interns and volunteers in managing these systems
* introduce the systems to visitors to the Student Farm

This work will require 2-3 hours weekly. This can be done along with general EG garden responsibilities to complete 30 hours needed for one unit. Students are eligible for this internship after having completed a general EG internship or equivalent experience.

**Materials**

Appropriate background references for this is internship are:

Worms Eat My Garbage by Mary Appelhop

Do the Rot Thing by Alameda County Waste Management Authority

Compost Basics Powerpoint by Carol Hillhouse

**Objectives—1st quarter**

After 30 hours in this internship, the student will have experienced all of these tasks with mentorship from a trained garden lead. They will have led general EG interns/volunteers to accomplish management of the worm compost systems.

**Assessment--1st quarter**

Both the intern’s self-assessment and the supervisors’ assessment of progress will indicate at least intermediate level of competency in all of these tasks. Student will provide a 15-20 minute worm compost update at the end of the quarter to at least one mentor and one EG garden crew of 2 or more EG interns/volunteers.

**Objectives—2nd quarter**

After 60-90 hours in this internship, the student will have experienced all of these tasks several times. They will have worked side-by-side with 1st quarter interns/volunteers to manage these systems. They will be able to manage the systems appropriately without direct guidance from EG leads and provide updates to the EG lead team about ongoing management and needs.

**Assessment—2nd quarter**

Both the intern’s self-assessment and the supervisors’ assessment of progress will indicate advanced level of competency in all of these tasks. Student will provide a 15-20 minute worm compost update at the end of the quarter to at least one mentor and one EG garden crew of 2 or more EG interns/volunteers.

**Aerobic Compost Management Internship - EG**

**Description and Responsibilities**

This internship involves taking primary responsibility for monitoring, maintaining, and harvesting of the aerobic composting system in the Ecological Garden. Intern would work with EG leads as well as any EG interns and volunteers as needed to manage the three-bin system on the north side of the garden. Responsibilities are the following:

* gain understanding of Ecological Garden aerobic compost system
* each week obtain food waste from MG packing shed and/or Project Compost to feed system
* harvest chicken manure from chicken coop and add to aerobic system
* maintain appropriate moisture levels
* harvest finished compost and use in EG
* lead other interns and volunteers in managing these systems
* keep record of management practices and temperatures
* introduce the systems to visitors to the Student Farm

This work will require 2-3 hours weekly. This can be done along with general EG garden responsibilities to complete 30 hours needed for one unit. Students are eligible for this internship after having completed a general EG internship or equivalent experience.

**Materials**

Appropriate background references for this is internship are

 Management Records/Description for SF Ecological Garden Aerobic Compost System

 Compost Basics Powerpoint by Carol Hillhouse

**Objectives—1st quarter**

After 30 hours in this internship, the student will have experienced all of these tasks with mentorship from a trained garden lead. They will have led general EG interns/volunteers to accomplish management of the aerobic compost system.

**Assessment--1st quarter**

Both the intern’s self-assessment and the supervisors’ assessment of progress will indicate at least advanced level of competency in all of these tasks. Student will provide a 15-20 minute compost system update at the end of the quarter to at least one mentor and one EG garden crew of 2 or more EG interns/volunteers.

**Objectives—2nd quarter**

After 60-90 hours in this internship, the student will have experienced all of these tasks several times. They will have worked side-by-side with 1st quarter interns/volunteers to manage the aerobic compost system. They will be able to manage the system appropriately without direct guidance from EG leads and provide updates to the EG lead team about ongoing management efforts and needs.

**Assessment—2nd quarter**

Both the intern’s self-assessment and the supervisors’ assessment of progress will indicate advanced level of competency in all of these tasks. Student will provide a 15-20 minute aerobic compost system update at the end of the quarter to at least one mentor and one EG garden crew of 2 or more EG interns/volunteers.

**Medicinal and Culinary Herb Management Internship – EG**

**Description and Responsibilities**

This internship involves working primarily maintaining herbs growing in the Ecological Garden. These are concentrated in our medicinal herb raised bed and the culinary herb garden but also includes herbs in other locations in the EG. Intern would work with EG leads as well as other EG interns and volunteers as needed.

Responsibilities are the following:

* familiarize yourself with medicinal and culinary herbs in the EG
* care for herbs as needed by weeding, pruning, dividing, mulching, fertilizing, transplanting, and managing for pests
* maintain irrigation systems on herbs and check periodically for functioning
* propagate and/or obtain new herbs to supplement/diversify existing beds as necessary
* help maintain labels and databases for these herbs
* learn in-depth specifics about 3-5 species and provide written material to EG about them

This work will require 2-3 hours weekly. This can be done along with general EG garden responsibilities to complete 30 hours needed for one unit. Students are eligible for this internship after having completed a general EG internship or equivalent experience.

**Materials**

Appropriate background references for this is internship are

 Life in the Medicine by Leslie Gardener

**Objectives—1st quarter**

After 30 hours in this internship, the student will have experienced all of these tasks with mentorship from a trained garden lead. They will have contributed significantly to management of the medicinal and culinary herbs in the EG by working with a crew to accomplish required work.

**Assessment--1st quarter**

Both the intern’s self-assessment and the supervisors’ assessment of progress will indicate at least intermediate level of competency in herb maintenance. At the end of the quarter, student will provide a 15-20 minute herb garden update plus introduction to 2-3 specific herbs of choice to at least one mentor and one EG garden crew of 2 or more EG interns/volunteers.

**Objectives—2nd quarter**

After 60-90 hours in this internship, the student will have experienced all of these tasks several times. They will have worked side-by-side with 1st quarter interns/volunteers to manage the herb gardens. They will be able to manage the systems appropriately without direct guidance from EG leads and will provide updates to the EG lead team about ongoing management and needs.

**Assessment—2nd quarter**

Both the intern’s self-assessment and the supervisors’ assessment of progress will indicate advanced level of competency in all of these tasks. At the end of the quarter, student will provide a 15-20 minute herb garden update plus introduction to 2-3 specific herbs of choice to at least one mentor and one EG garden crew of 2 or more EG interns/volunteers.

**Vegetable Crop Management Internship – EG (Winter and Spring quarters)**

**Description and Responsibilities**

This internship involves taking partial responsibility for annual vegetable crop planning and management in the Ecological Garden. Intern would work with EG leads as well as any EG interns and volunteers as needed. Responsibilities are the following:

* walk the annual beds in the EG weekly and make note of needs and issues
* meet with EG lead team 3 times in the quarter to discuss annual bed work and planning
* gain basic understanding of crop planning, crop rotation & crop requirements
* considering the programmatic needs of the Ecological Garden, work with lead team to develop seasonal crop plan including planting, transplanting and harvest schedule for the upcoming quarter
* ensure sowing and transplanting schedule for the current quarter is upheld
* aid in pest management in the vegetable crop beds, particularly monitoring and protection from vertebrate and insect pests

This internship would require 3-6 hours weekly. This can be done along with other general EG garden responsibilities. Students are eligible for this internship after having completed minimum 2 quarters as a general EG intern. Must display readiness and general understanding of the EG food system for this internship.

**Materials**

Appropriate background references for this is internship are

 How to Grow More Vegetables by John Jeavons

 Sacramento Bee Crop Planning Chart for the Capital Region

 UC IPM website

**Objectives—1st quarter**

After 30 hours in this internship, the student will have completed all of the listed tasks with guidance from a trained garden lead. They will have led general EG interns/volunteers to accomplish management tasks in the annual garden beds.

**Assessment--1st quarter**

Both the intern’s self-assessment and the supervisors’ assessment of progress will indicate at least intermediate level of competency in all of these tasks. Student will provide bed plan for upcoming quarter and meet with EG lead team to explain and discuss.

**Objectives—2nd quarter**

After 60-90 hours in this internship, the student will have completed all of these tasks several times. They will be able to make helpful recommendations to EG lead team. They will have led general EG interns/volunteers to accomplish management tasks in the annual garden beds several times.

**Assessment—2nd quarter**

Both the intern’s self-assessment and the supervisors’ assessment of progress will indicate advanced level of competency in all of these tasks. Student will provide bed plan for upcoming quarter and meet with EG lead team to explain and discuss.

**Tree and Vine Winter Pruning Internship – EG *(WINTER QUARTER)***

**Description and Responsibilities**

This internship involves working closely with a small team to complete winter pruning on the fruit trees and vines growing in the Ecological Garden. Intern would work under close mentorship with EG leads.

Responsibilities are the following:

* familiarize yourself with the fruit trees in the EG
* annual pruning appropriate for winter season
* develop an annual maintenance schedule for one type of fruit trees or vine
* help maintain labels and databases for the fruit trees

This will require 3-6 hours weekly during winter quarter. Students are eligible for this internship after having completed a general internship or equivalent experience. Student will need to be able to coordinate with winter pruning team to come at the hours determined for this winter quarter effort.

**Materials**

Appropriate background references for this is internship are

 The Backyard Orchardist by Stella Otto

 Designing and Maintaining your Edible Landscape Naturally by Robert Kourik

 Notes on Winter Pruning in the EG from Sheena Hoff and Francis Flores

**Objectives—1st quarter**

After 30 hours in this internship, the student will have experienced these tasks with mentorship from a trained garden lead. Student will have participated in pruning 3 or more different types of fruit tree or vine will close supervision for EG lead.

**Assessment--1st quarter**

Both the intern’s self-assessment and the supervisors’ assessment of progress will indicate at least advanced beginner level of competency in all of these tasks. Student will provide a 15-20 minute fruit tree pruning update at the end of the quarter to at least one mentor and one EG garden crew of 2 or more EG interns/volunteers.

**Objectives—2nd quarter**

After 60-90 hours in this internship, the student will have experience pruning all of the fruiting trees and vines in the EG one or more times. They will have worked with first-quarter interns and shared prior experience gained.

**Assessment—2nd quarter**

Both the intern’s self-assessment and the supervisors’ assessment of progress will indicate intermediate level of competency in all of these tasks. Student will provide a 15-20 minute fruit tree pruning update at the end of the quarter to at least one mentor and one EG garden crew of 2 or more EG interns/volunteers.

**Plant Labeling and Database Management Internship *(WINTER or Summer)***

**Description and Responsibilities**

This internship involves contributing to an ongoing project that was started by previous interns and volunteers. Intern would produce labels that can be used by visitors, interns, volunteers, and docents to identify perennial species planted in the EG.

Responsibilities are the following:

* familiarize yourself with perennial plantings in the EG
* familiarize yourself with excel database used to keep plant lists
* update plant database
* produce labels using lamination process
* make plant label holders as needed

This will require 2-3 hours weekly. This can be done along with general EG garden responsibilities. Students are eligible for this internship after having completed a general EG internship or equivalent experience.

**Materials**

Appropriate background references for this is internship are

 Current Ecological Garden plant Database lists

 Western Garden Book by Sunset

 Appropriate up-to-date on-line botanical resources

**Objectives—1st quarter**

After 30 hours in this internship, the student will have experienced all of these tasks with mentorship from a trained garden lead. They will have gained understanding of the categories of plants growing in the Ecological Garden and they will be able to identify several within each category.

**Assessment--1st quarter**

Both the intern’s self-assessment and the supervisors’ assessment of progress will indicate at least advanced beginner level of competency in knowing the names of the perennials growing in the Ecological Garden.

**Objectives—2nd quarter**

After 60 hours in this internship, the student will have experienced all of these tasks several times. They will have a solid understanding of the categories of plants growing in the Ecological Garden and will know where to find the majority of these plants. They will have become competent and dependable in updating the EG plant database and replacing labels as needed.

**Assessment—2nd quarter**

Both the intern’s self-assessment and the supervisors’ assessment of progress will indicate at least an intermediate level of competency in knowing the names of the perennials in the Ecological Garden.