

HORTICULTURIST

About Hildene:

Located in southwestern Vermont, Hildene was the seasonal residence of Robert Lincoln and his wife Mary. Mr. Lincoln was the only child of President Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln to survive to adulthood. Between 1905 and the death of their granddaughter Mary Lincoln Beckwith in 1975, more Lincolns (three successive generations) lived at Hildene than at any other place in the world. In 1978, the non-profit Friends of Hildene purchased and preserved the estate which is open to the public year-round.

Hildene is among Vermont's top cultural heritage sites and tourist destinations. Our attraction is comprised of a 1905 Georgian Revival home, formal and working gardens, restored Pullman railcar Sunbeam, agricultural operations, cheesemaking facility, twelve miles of trails, and year-round programming, all on 412 acres in beautiful Manchester, Vermont. Abraham Lincoln's values, shared through the estate his son Robert and later generations kept and cherished, are at the heart of our mission.

Position Overview:

Reporting to the Horticulture Manager and working closely with team members, this position takes part in all aspects of Hildene's ecological approach to land management.

As part of Hildene's Horticulture team, the Horticulturist helps cultivate and maintain over 20 acres of landscaped spaces, gardens, and natural areas throughout our 412-acre property while also preserving historic landscapes where appropriate. This position's primary responsibility is the maintenance of our gardens including historic formal, perennial, annual, vegetable, and landscape beds and working in the greenhouse growing annuals and perennials for installation and sales.

The Horticulturist also works in our teaching greenhouse which features 3600 sq feet of growing space and a potting room/classroom shared with Burr & Burton Academy's Farm and Food Studies program. Education is at the core of Hildene's mission; our Horticulture team is deeply involved in creating and fostering spaces for learning and connecting people with the natural world.

Our ideal candidate is passionate about ecological stewardship and knowledgeable about implementing those practices in conjunction with the highest standards of garden management. Eagerness to learn new skills, the ability to adjust quickly to changing circumstances, and interest in the potential for growth are desirable qualifications.

(Year-round, full-time, 40 hours per week. This position is classified as essential personnel, which may require attendance at work during inclement weather.)

Responsibilities:

Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform these essential functions.

- Garden duties, including planting, staking, hand-weeding, watering, deadheading, pest ID and IPM practices, dividing, mulching, seed-saving.
- Greenhouse propagation work and plant care.
- Lead garden tours and interact with guests.
- Support unique collaborative high school farm program.



- Supervise and work in coordination with volunteers and seasonal staff.
- Record-keeping.
- Assist Grounds Department, when necessary, with tasks such as weed whacking and snow shoveling and aid other departments as needed.

Required Skills

- Demonstrated plant knowledge, weed & pest identification, and general horticultural practices.
- Knowledge of and experience with ecological/regenerative gardening techniques including an understanding of managing beneficial insects (including pollinators), invasive plants, and non-chemical pest & weed management.
- Effective communications skills.
- Valid Driver's License.
- Ability to work independently and with a team.
- Observant, self-motivated with proven critical thinking skills.

Physical Requirements

- Consistently works in a variety of weather conditions.
- Move objects weighing up to 50 lbs.
- Traverse uneven terrain from one job location to another.
- Consistent use of hand tools to care for gardens and landscape.
- Constantly position and re-position self to care for and maintain gardens and landscape.

Education and Experience

Bachelor's degree in plant science or related field preferred.

Minimum of 4 years' experience, preferably in a public garden setting.

Alternatively, combination of experience and education.

SCHEDULE

Tues. - Sat., 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Compensation:

Competitive Salary

Benefits include dental and vision; life and AD&D insurance; paid time off; holidays; Simple IRA (Individual Retirement Account) account with employer 2% contribution.

TO APPLY:

Please email a letter of interest describing how you are a great fit for Hildene, resume and portfolio to Andrea Luchini: andrea@hildene.org. You may also mail your application to: Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home, c/o Andrea Luchini, Horticulture Manager, PO Box 377, Manchester, VT 05254

Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home, is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We welcome candidates who contribute to our diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all.