

Job Description

Senior Grower

Permanent full time role.
Borde Hill, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. RH16 1XP



About Borde Hill

Borde Hill (BH) is a registered charity and a Grade II* listed English Heritage Garden set within 383 acres of Parkland and Woodland in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Stephenson Clarke family have been custodians of Borde Hill for five generations, and are at a stage of generational change that has bringing new energy, opportunities and ideas aimed at broadening our visitor demographic and ensuring Borde Hill is sustainable for future generations. This includes new business initiatives such as the launch of The Cordia Collective this spring, a new culinary venture from Green Michelin-starred chef Chantelle Nicholson. The Cordia Collective will be dynamic and multifaceted, and will include a café, restaurant, bakery and workshop space, which champion locally sourced, seasonal food, while celebrating the rich biodiversity and plant heritage of Borde Hill and respecting the restorative power of nature, making a positive impact on the planet and people.

The food outlets will be served by produce grown on our 10-acre biodynamic Market Garden, located at Sugworth Farm on Borde Hill Estate.

You and Your Role

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the Borde Hill team as Senior Grower to manage this new Market Garden. Now in its third year of production, we are looking for a passionate grower to work on establishing our productive fruit and vegetable crop to supply both wholesalers and our new field to fork restaurant which is opening later this year.

You will work closely with the Senior Walled Kitchen Gardener, whose focus is to oversee the implementation of our reimagined 1 acre Victorian Walled Garden, redesigned by award winning Garden Designer, Anne-Marie Powell. You will also have a symbiotic relationship with Chef, Founder of the restaurant, Chantelle Nicholson, bringing our new food vision to life, which champions field to fork, seasonal and honest produce, showcasing the very best of biodynamic farming.

It is therefore key that you have excellent communication and collaborative working skills, as well as the knowledge of growing produce on a large scale, effectively planning crop selection, cultivation, time of sowing and harvesting, and that you have an enthusiasm for biodynamic growing principles.

Your immediate priority will be the implementation of the annual cropping plan and overseeing the installation of a new polytunnel, supported by our part time Grower and Volunteers.

Both the Walled Kitchen Garden and Market Garden are in their infancy, and the Senior Grower and Senior Walled Kitchen Gardener will be key anchors in delivering Borde Hill's new vision of field to fork dining, joining the Estate at a hugely exciting time.

Salary:

£28,500-£30,000pa
(dependent on experience)

Hours:

37.5hrs per week
(potential to job share)

Holiday entitlement:

32 days pro rata (including Bank Holidays)

To apply:

email your CV & covering letter to
manager@bordehill.co.uk.

Closing date:

21st February 2025

If you are in employment, please include your current notice period.

Our location:

Borde Hill
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1XP

01444 450326

www.bordehill.co.uk

Knowledge, skills and experience needed:

(Please provide evidence in your Covering Letter and CV)

As Senior Grower, you will report to the Head Gardener

You will have the following responsibilities:

- Oversee a small team including volunteers and students, supported by the Head Gardener
- Collaborate with the Senior Walled Kitchen Gardener to follow a cropping plan and sowing/planting schedule, to ensure produce is varied and sustained throughout the year.
- Work within the standards of Demeter and attend annual inspections, preparing all of the paperwork and keeping records of BD spraying activities.
- Communicate and plan ahead with the Chef and Senior Walled Kitchen Gardener on crops to be grown as well as determining supply and demand.
- Contribute to Borde Hill's wider work as a member of the Garden Team, actively participating in scheduled and ad hoc departmental meetings with the Head Gardener, General Manager and the Managing Director.
- Delegated authority for annual budgets for the Farm working with the Head Gardener and Finance Team.
- The variable and dynamic nature of this role requires a flexible approach to working out of regular hours as required.

Essential Selection Criteria

Skills required:

- Proven all-round horticultural training and experience to at least RHS Level 2 or equivalent.
- A significant level of understanding of plant propagation, seed sowing, crop rotations, non-chemical pest and disease management, knowledge of post-harvest and other plant husbandry techniques needed in a productive Market Garden setting.
- A strong understanding of growing crops undercover and knowledge of cultivation under polytunnels.
- An understanding of how to manage the cultivation of heavy clay soil and the climatic influences it may have.
- Able to be strategic in work planning, energetic, proactive, inclusive, enthusiastic and organised.
- Excellent communication skills to work collaboratively with the Senior Walled Kitchen Gardener, Chef, Family, and all members of the Borde Hill team; with the ability to explain horticultural procedures to students and volunteers.
- Experience of managing teams, ability to lead by example with demonstratable people management skills.
- Proven experience in the use of a wide range of specialist equipment and machinery.
- Understanding and experience of health and safety procedures including COSHH and risk assessment procedures.
- Computer literate with experience of MS Office software, and able to use databases accurately.
- A full, clean driving license.

Borde Hill has a small, dedicated, professional and friendly team who embody a 'one team' culture. We want everyone to feel valued and fairly rewarded for the work they do and your package includes:

- A Borde Hill family membership allowing free entry to the Garden and Parkland
- Discount in the Borde Hill shop and catering outlets
- Free tickets for selected events throughout the open season
- Free access at selected times to our Partner Gardens (Chelsea Physic Garden, The Newt and Sculpture by the Lakes, The Lost Gardens of Heligan)
- Free access to our wellbeing programme of events
- A flexible working pattern where possible
- Free parking

We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their race, sex, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation.