



Trainee Role Description

Grower (Horticulture with Fruit and Vines focus) – 1 post

We grow organic produce at Hawkwood, our 12 acre community market garden and plant nursery, and distribute it to our own market stalls, box scheme and local restaurants. In our ½ acre glasshouse we grow heritage tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, chillies and seedlings for sale to local people and community groups. We have an orchard of over 200 young fruit trees; peaches fan trained against our glasshouse; cordons of apples and pears; almonds and hazelnuts. We also grow soft fruits including strawberries, blackcurrants, raspberries and rhubarb. Our vineyard has been planted with nearly 500 vines; we have a winery and make our own wine.

This traineeship will suit someone looking to develop their skills within the market garden, and in particular someone looking to develop their skills as a fruit and vine grower in a community setting and in organic viticulture and fruit growing. The trainee will learn the skills required to manage the vineyard and fruit growing areas of Hawkwood, and take on responsibilities for the fruit and vines. You will also pick up skills associated with the weekend harvest schedule and the growing of plants and vegetables across the season.

Details of the role

- Unpaid voluntary role
- Time commitment: 1 day/week for 9 months
- Dates: Friday 8 April - Friday 16 December 2022
- Hours: Fridays from 9.00am - 5.00pm (with possibly to attend a Wednesday evenings a month for workshops and 'production walk'.)
- Based at: Hawkwood Community Plant Nursery
- Occasional weekend commitments: 4 days over the traineeship to support weekend outreach events, open days and plant and produce stalls

Supported by:

- monthly check-ins with an OrganicLea mentor
- monthly discussion and learning workshop
- travel expenses, within London, if needed
- bicycle repairs and servicing whilst-you-work for cyclists
- a seasonal, vegan, organic lunch will be provided on Fridays

If you are unable to commit to the full placement it may be possible to create a shorter 3- 6 month structured placement instead, focusing on fruit and vines. This would need to be agreed at interview.

To apply please:

1. Indicate clearly which role(s) you are interested in. If you would like to apply for more than one role please list your preferred 3 in order.
2. Complete and return the OrganicLea application form and monitoring form, available on our website.
3. Send to: debbie@organiclea.org.uk or post to the Hawkwood Address for the attention of Debbie Ladds, OrganicLea, 115 Hawkwood Crescent, Chingford, E4 7UH.

Deadline for applications: 9pm on Friday 18 February 2022

Interview date: Friday 11 March 2022

For more information about the role, start by contacting Debbie at:
debbie@organiclea.org.uk (Tuesdays and Fridays are good contact days).

Main objectives

- To learn about and assist with all aspects of planting, preparation and maintenance of the vineyard and soft and top fruit areas at Hawkwood
- To learn about and assist with harvesting and processing of fruit from Hawkwood and scrumped from trees in streets and gardens in the borough
- To assist with the vegetable and flower harvest and with the vegetable production
- To provide support for the volunteer programme

Main Activities

Fruit and vineyard

- Planting vines, trees and fruit bushes
- Pruning
- Training restricted forms
- Orchard management
- Propagation from cuttings
- Wine and juice production
- Organic weed, pest and disease management
- Assisting with development and maintenance of the site's infrastructure
- Undertake other activities in support of OrganicLea, as appropriate

Scrumping

- Take part in fruit picking around the borough
- Sort the fruit into storing and juicing quality
- Keep good records of fruit available, picks undertaken and amounts juiced
- Help to process scrumped fruit into juice

Growing

- Assist with the harvesting of fruit, vegetables and flowers to agreed methods, ensuring quality control
- Weighing, packaging, sealing, labelling and organising despatch of produce
- Assist with all aspects of vegetable production including: formulating propagation media, raising plants from seed, planting, harvesting, weeding and maintaining salad crops, vegetables, green manures and companion plants

Working with volunteers

- Work to ensure all volunteers on site are safe, welcomed, valued and supported
- Lead tasks with volunteers

Person Specification

Essential

- Interest in sustainable food production and the desire to put that interest into practice
- Some experience of growing

OrganicLea is a registered company limited by guarantee no. 5135926
Growing site: Hawkwood Plant Nursery, 115 Hawkwood Crescent, Chingford E4 7UH
Distribution hub/Registered office: Hornbeam Centre, 458 Hoe Street, Walthamstow, London E17 9AH
Web: www.organiclea.org.uk Email: info@organiclea.org.uk
Telephone: 020 8524 4994 (Hawkwood)

- Interest in winemaking, and other fruit preservation and processing methods including juice and vinegar making
- Ability to supervise and explain tasks to volunteers
- Happy to work mainly outdoors throughout the year
- Ability to carry out shared tasks and work within a team
- Ability to work on own initiative, prioritise tasks and work to deadlines
- Commitment to and understanding of the aims of OrganicLea

Desirable

- Experience of working with volunteers