



Forestry Commission  
England

Westonbirt  
The National  
Arboretum 

# Discover Green Careers at Westonbirt

## Propagator

## Job role

To propagate and grow the next generation of trees

To maintain and develop the arboretum for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations

## Key Work Areas

### 1. Propagation (30%)

- Inspect and propagate plants from the collection, including propagating those to be removed – seed, cuttings, direct planting, grafting
- Select and propagate heritage specimens – rhododendrons through air layering
- Source plant material from collections, commercial growers and other sources in line with the Accession Policy
- Assist with and undertake plant-collecting expeditions
- Write and review annual risk assessment procedures for propagation work, including volunteer activity
- Maintain propagation facilities
- Manage propagation budget

### 2. Plant husbandry (30%)

- Oversee all maintenance of growing stock – watering, weeding, feeding, potting on etc.
- Monitor pests and diseases, control where necessary and adhere to national and local bio-security policy and procedures

### 3. Planting (20%)

- Prepare list of plants for annual planting programme. Prepare planting stakes for marking planting positions
- Work closely with the Curator to find suitable locations within the collection for the 'ready to plant' specimens, considering both plant cultural needs and picturesque landscape
- Place out planting stakes to mark planting positions and liaise with Tree Team staff

#### 4. Records (10%)

- Accession / record all incoming plant material within one month of acceptance – allocate unique number. Record field data in database within 12 months and update Plant Database Records as required.
- Prepare list of surplus plants for distribution to other collections and despatch plants as required.
- Prepare Material Transfer Agreements, detailing plant passport number
- Abide by all current PHSI (**Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate**) plant passport requirements

#### 5. Other duties (10%)

- Answer public enquiries regarding Westonbirt plants and propagation matters
- Assist with volunteer recruitment and selection
- Promote the arboretum through writing articles, giving talks and presentations and handling media enquiries.
- In all areas of work, use and conserve natural resources in line with the 'Business Sustainability' initiative