

N.C. Cooperative Extension
Office of the Director of County Operations
NC State University
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Raleigh, NC 27695-7602



Wilson County

County/Worksite Location:	Wilson County Cooperative Extension
Proposal/Program Area:	ANR/CRD
Project Title:	Eastern Region Nursery & Greenhouse Intern
Immediate/ Site Supervisor:	Danny Lauderdale
Other mentors/supervisors:	
1	Joel Neal, Weed Science Extension Specialist and Horticulture Department Extension Leader
2	Jessica Strickland, Horticulture Agent
3	Colby Griffin, Horticulture Agent
4	Marshall Warren, Horticulture Agent

Project summary and intended outcomes:

The Eastern Nursery & Greenhouse Internship involves work focusing on planning, developing and delivering educational programs for the nursery and greenhouse industry and its support network of County Extension Agents. While working under the direction of the Area Specialized Agent in the Eastern Region, the intern will improve knowledge of the general workings of wholesale ornamental nursery and greenhouse production. The intern will select a nursery management issue that has been identified as high priority by Eastern Region Nursery Growers and research/develop a presentation and/or fact sheet on the issue that will be shared with growers in the region.

Major grower issues currently identified are labor, improving efficiency, introducing mechanization, planting problems, water management, fertilizer management, and pest management (Top 3 are: red headed flea beetle, scales, and ambrosia beetle).



What qualifications and previous coursework does the student need in order to be prepared for this internship, if any?

The intern should have an interest in pursuing a career related to ornamental horticulture or entomology. The intern will perform tasks which may expose them to intense weather, especially sun, heat and humidity, and to other nursery commonalities such as dust, dirt, and pesticides. The Area Specialized Agent holds a NC Pesticide License in Ornamental/Turf and Research/Demonstration and follows all pesticide laws and label instructions.

What benefits/skills will the student gain through this internship?

The intern will have the opportunity to work with the Area Specialized Agent, County Agents, Extension Specialists, and Nursery Growers to learn how to survey customer needs, develop programs, implement programs, and evaluate information gained and practices changed based on Extension education programs including face to face training, use of web based training, Constant Contact, email, and social media. The intern will opportunities to learn about developing nursery and greenhouse programs in:

- Integrated Pest Management (monitoring growing degree days, scouting, trapping, learning to identify pests and researching pest control recommendations)
- Nutrition and Substrates (monitoring pH, electrical conductivity, and substrate physical properties)
- Best Management Practices (irrigation and runoff management)
- Cultural practices (planting, potting, and pruning)

The Area Specialized Agent has an interest and focus on management of *Systema frontalis*, red-headed flea beetle, a foliar pest of many container grown nursery ornamental plants.