

# Naples Botanical GARDEN

**Position Title: Plant Health Specialist (I)**

**Department: Horticulture Department**

**Reports to: Associate Director of Horticulture**

## **Organizational Description**

Naples Botanical Garden is a 170-acre world-class paradise, featuring the flora and cultures of the tropics and sub-tropics between the latitudes of 26 degrees north and 26 degrees south, including Brazil, the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, and Florida. The Garden's mission is to connect people and plants through display, education, conservation, and science. The Garden's hands-on interactive Smith Children's Garden, along with 90 acres of beautifully restored native habitats, formal Gardens, walking trails and public programming offer education and enjoyment for people of all ages. Naples Botanical Garden is a 501(c)3 organization.

## **Position Summary**

Naples Botanical Garden is seeking an organized and motivated Plant Health Care Specialist. A background in the use of sustainable practices to manage and maintain healthy plant collections and displays throughout the Garden is a plus. Work with staff and volunteers to maintain and inventory growing facilities and assist horticulture staff in incorporating appropriate collections into the Garden. The position is a full-time permanent position in the Garden's Horticulture Department.

## **Primary Duties and Responsibilities**

- Assist in providing technical expertise, assistance and training to staff and volunteers about plant and pest biology, best management practices, and IPM strategies.
- Assist in the management of pest control and fertilization in growing facilities.
- Knowledge of tropical and sub-tropical plant species, plant nutrient deficiencies and plant pests.
- Monitor, identify, and determine appropriate control measures for pest activities throughout the Garden and nurseries, including insects, diseases, weeds and animals.
- Carry out treatments in a safe and legal manner using best management practices, organic methods (when possible) and IPM principles, including but not limited to applications of fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, miticides, fungicides and repellents.
- Correctly identify Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) Category I & II invasive exotic plant species with minimal review and discriminate invasive exotic plants from native vegetation of similar appearance.
- Survey and inspect landscape trees, shrubs, turf, ornamentals and natural areas for evidence of various plant, insect and animal pests and related damage, natural pest predators, and conditions that may contribute to pest problems, and collaborate with staff to take appropriate steps to resolve issues.
- Assist the Conservation team when needed to utilize traps, chemical and non-chemical methods to manage a range of pests, including management of insects and nuisance wildlife, in an ethical, safe, and legal manner with emphasis on the least toxic approach.
- Mix, apply, and monitor various recommended chemicals, fertilizers, compounds and baits to be used for the treatment, elimination or control of specific conditions found throughout the Gardens.

- Maintain pesticide storage area in accordance with all governmental requirements.
- Safely operate and maintain specialized equipment, including sprayers and spray equipment, chainsaws, blowers, etc.

#### **Additional Qualifications**

- Experience using natural or organic fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.
- Knowledge of sustainable best management practices or IPM principles.
- Knowledge, ability and willingness to handle fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides in the course of landscape management.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision under adverse physical and weather conditions, including high humidity and temperatures, inclement weather, exposure to poisonous plants, biting insects, wild animals and difficult terrain.
- Must possess required licenses for all disciplines required for the position or be willing to obtain licenses, including Commercial Applicator/Restricted Pesticide use. All licenses must be active and continuously maintained.
- Valid Driver's License.
- Ability to function effectively as a member of a team as well as work independently to see projects through to completion.

#### **Additional Responsibilities**

- Participate in Garden-wide events, exhibitions and projects as required or needed
- Will include some evening or weekend hours, depending on the needs of the organization or program
- Performs other duties as assigned and required

#### **To Apply**

Please provide a cover letter, resume and contact information for three references by email to [employment@naplesgarden.org](mailto:employment@naplesgarden.org). To find out more about Naples Botanical Garden, please visit our website at [www.naplegarden.org](http://www.naplegarden.org). Naples Botanical Garden is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Naples Botanical Garden has a long-standing policy of employment and advancement based solely upon qualifications to perform the essential elements of a position without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin (ancestry), or disability.