

Grower's Assistant - Boston

Who We Are

Since our founding in 1991, The Food Project has grown into an internationally recognized nonprofit organization that works at the intersection of youth, food, and community. For nearly three decades, youth and adults from diverse backgrounds have come together to produce healthy food for residents of the city and suburbs and to build local, sustainable food systems. Each year, 120 youth work in crews with our staff to farm on 70 acres in eastern Massachusetts in Lincoln and Wenham and to partner with our neighbors in Lynn and Boston to create a sustainable, local food system.

What We Seek

The Food Project is seeking a Grower's Assistant for our Boston farm, based in Boston's Dudley neighborhood, for the 2020 season. The Grower's Assistant partners with youth and neighbors to work on two acres of urban farm land and a 10,000-square foot greenhouse that yield over 30,000 pounds of produce annually. The Grower's Assistant also supports the distribution of that food through our neighborhood farmer's markets, restaurants, community partners, and hunger relief organizations. This position is a mix of production and sales/distribution work.

Primary Responsibilities

Farm Work

The Grower's Assistant works in partnership with the Boston Farms Manager to ensure strong, efficient food production on two urban farm sites throughout the season, including field preparation, planting, cultivation, harvest, and ongoing maintenance.

Volunteer & Youth Engagement

In the spring and fall, the Grower's Assistant leads volunteer groups in farm work for one to two mornings each week and works with individual volunteers for an additional one to two days per week. During July and August, the Grower's Assistant partners with youth development staff to lead farm work one day per week with youth who are part of The Food Project's Seed Crew, an intensive 6-week summer job for teenagers. The Grower's Assistant is the lead farmer working with this youth program, and an enthusiasm for working with teenagers is essential. Throughout the season, the Grower's Assistant also plays a lead role in ensuring strong coordination between youth development staff and farm operations.

Produce Sales and Distribution

Beginning in June, the Grower's Assistant independently manages a weekly farm stand on Saturdays in Jamaica Plain. The Grower's Assistant also plays a supporting role in supporting the successful set up of 2 other markets in Roxbury and Dorchester, though these stands are managed by other staff members. The Grower's assistant works with the Boston Grower to assist with deliveries to restaurants and accounts twice/week.

As Needed

In addition, the Grower's Assistant collaborates with the Boston Farms Manager periodically as needed to support other aspects of the Dudley farm operations, including:

- Greenhouse seeding and assisting with management of 4000 square feet of greenhouse tomato production



- Supervising a Northeastern University co-op student who assists with farms and markets
- Participation in regular staff meetings and trainings

Qualifications

This position is well-suited to an individual with at least one full season of experience working on a production farm who is ready to take on a leadership role in implementing an aggressive farm plan, with oversight and support from an experienced grower.

This position is ideal for an outgoing candidate passionate about urban farming and food justice. Our growing is done in partnership with youth and volunteers, so a candidate must have a passion for leading and teaching others. Our youth and neighbors reflect a multitude of diverse cultural, racial and socio-economic backgrounds, and candidates with experience working in multicultural settings are strongly preferred.

- At least one season of full-time field experience on a production farm
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills and energy for engaging other people
- Experience working in multicultural community settings
- Experience leading groups safely and productively
- Dependable, responsible, flexible, and open to learning
- Commitment to teamwork, and skill in working both independently and on a team
- Ability to commit to a Tuesday-Saturday, 8-4 PM schedule throughout the season (subject to slight variation).
- 21+ years of age, with a valid driver's license in good standing (required for use of TFP vehicles)
- Enthusiasm for working with teenagers; prior experience working with or teaching youth in outdoor settings preferred
- Knowledge of Spanish or Cape Verdean Creole preferred.

Schedule

This is a full-time, seasonal position from April 1– November 7th, 2020, with a Tuesday through Saturday work week. The Grower's Assistant may take one paid week off in August to compensate for the federal holidays that fall within the growing season (Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day and Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples' Day).

Compensation

The salary for this role is \$600 per week with employer-sponsored health insurance and vegetables from the farm.

Application Process

We will review all submissions, identify viable candidates and contact ONLY those individuals selected to continue in the search process. The position will be filled when the desired candidate is found. Please send resume and cover letter via email to: jobs@thefoodproject.org. In the subject line, write your name and the position for which you are applying, e.g.: "Jordan Smith – Grower's Assistant – Boston."

The Food Project is an Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to creating an inclusive organization. We actively seek a diverse pool of candidates for this position.