

Trees for Life

Skills for Rewilding Tree Nursery and Horticulture Traineeship

Trees for Life are recruiting two tree nursery and horticulture trainees, to be based at the tree nursery on Dundreggan Estate near Loch Ness. The nursery grows 70,000+ trees per year from seeds or cuttings, all of which are native to Scotland. The trees grown are used on projects associated with restoration of the ancient Caledonian Forest, which used to cover much of the Highlands.

The aim of the project is for trainees, over a 12 month period, to gain experience in all techniques and processes associated with tree nursery production. Trainees will be supported and mentored by members of the highly skilled Trees for Life staff through this process, allowing time to learn the skills necessary to go on and gain employment in the sector.

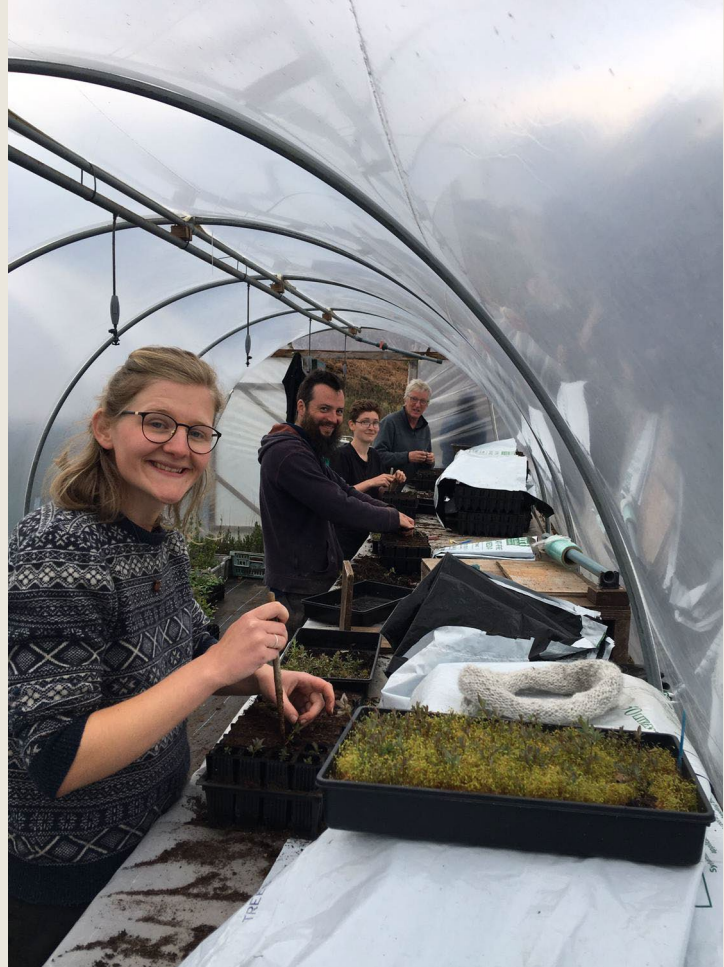
Traineeship experiences and learning

- Seed collection expeditions
- Seed processing and storage
- Working with volunteers and developing leadership skills
- Watering/irrigation
- Seed sowing and pricking out
- Tool use and maintenance
- Lifting and grading of trees for dispatch
- Pest and disease checks
- Use of biological controls
- Planting trees on upland project sites
- Helping develop innovative techniques to encourage aspen to flower or to propagate scarce mountain and pinewood plants



Desirable attributes for this traineeship include

- Passionate about the environment
- Interested in a career linked to horticulture
- Willing to learn
- Friendly
- Patient
- Good social skills
- Team worker
- Able to work well individually or in groups
- Reliable
- Trustworthy and honest
- Good attention to detail
- Responsible and hardworking
- Good timekeeping
- Flexible (happy to help with whatever needs doing)
- Willing to work in cold/hot, wet or midge conditions.



How you'll spend your time

- Four days a week learning by doing on the tree nursery
- One day a week independent study towards a Practical Horticulture Level 2 SVQ qualification.

If pandemic restrictions allow, there may be opportunities to go on work placements with external organisations, to make links with potential future employers and to increase knowledge about horticulture and tree production processes. In addition there will be the chance to join in with activities on the other traineeships. There will be an opportunity to gain a first aid qualification and health and safety/risk assessment training will be given.

There is currently a huge demand for trees to be planted to address climate change and other environmental issues. These traineeships aim to give participants skills which could enable them to play a role in meeting this increased demand.

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Image Credit: Ewen Weatherspoon