



## **Rain Gardens Native Plant Nursery Interns—2010**

**Summer interns: May 3 through August 31**

**Fall interns: September 1 through October 31**

### **Position summary:**

The Rain Gardens **Native Plant Nursery Interns** manage WMEAC's plant nursery during the growing season. The nursery supplies native plants for WMEAC project rain gardens and habitat restorations in West Michigan. WMEAC's Rain Garden program educates on Low Impact Development (LID) strategies, stormwater management, rain gardens, native plants and Great Lakes plant ecosystems. West Michigan Environmental Action Council is a 40 year old, citizen-based, nonprofit organization in Grand Rapids, Michigan. **This is a volunteer (unpaid) position.**

### **Organization Background:**

WMEAC (West Michigan Environmental Action Council) is a nonprofit membership organization founded in 1968 that has been active in issues ranging from banning DDT, lake, water, and dunes preservation, to our modern-day challenge of global climate change. WMEAC has two areas of focus: **Protecting Water, Building Sustainable Communities**. Our mission is to lead environmental protection in West Michigan by inspiring action.

### **Overview:**

WMEAC uses the native plant nursery in to propagate Michigan's native species in sustainable ways. We provide plants to rain gardens, schools, educational native plant and rain garden projects, habitat restorations, and similar projects. **The rain garden nursery intern maintains the plants in the nursery, removes weeds, labels plant species, enhances plantings, mulches paths and plants, coordinates work parties, helps recruit volunteers and partners, writes reports, and other tasks. The intern also records data and does other activities as assigned.**

### **Responsibilities:**

- Keep nursery well maintained; tidy, weeded and organized
- Enhance/increase plantings
- Maintain a database of volunteer contact information
- Hold group work parties at Rain Garden Nursery to accomplish objectives
- Update plant signage
- Record plant inventory
- Work with WMEAC to recognize contributions of volunteers
- Represent WMEAC at events and activities
- Work cooperatively with other volunteer staff
- Other tasks as requested





**Qualifications: The right candidate is upbeat and positive, self-directed and motivated. A successful intern will take initiative to complete needed projects, and complete tasks in a timely manner. Ability to correctly identify plants is essential.**

- Good internet & computer skills
- Excellent writing and speaking skills
- Ability to work at nursery location; some weekend hours required
- Enjoy being outside
- Valid driver's license; a motor vehicle to transport plants and tools to the work site
- Good organizational skills, self-starter, creativity
- Keen interest and/or background in native plants, botany, gardening
- Commitment to protect the environment

**Hours and timeline:**

Hours are 4-12 per week, varying during growing season. WMEAC expects the intern to follow a regular schedule but understands the need for flexibility. Some weekend work is needed.

We have two or more interns at the nursery during the growing season. Many volunteers work on the site each year. We expect interns to enjoy working cooperatively with other volunteers.

**Interested persons may contact with resume and cover letter:**

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