

Job Title: Community Grower - Camel Community Supported Agriculture

Location: Wadebridge

Hours: Nov - Feb 14 hours/week, Mar - Oct 32 hours/week

Work days: TBC - open to discussion

Status: Self-Employed

Closing date for applications: Sunday 17 November 2024

Interviews week commencing: Monday 18 November 2024

Start date of post: 1 December 2024

[Camel Community Supported Agriculture \(CSA\)](#) is based on Treraven Farm in Wadebridge, part of the Gaia Trust. We are seeking applicants for the post of a Community Grower to lead vegetable production and manage the growing team.

Camel CSA grows mixed vegetables for its members, using organic standards (although not certified), and has two acres of growing land including four polytunnels for protected cropping and a fruit orchard. The growing area is situated on slopes above the tidal River Camel and is part of land owned and managed by the [Gaia Trust](#).

We supply our members with a weekly veg share 12 months of the year, buying in sparingly from local producers on demand to cover shortfalls.

We are looking for an experienced grower with an understanding of and commitment to CSA and organic values and the ability to lead a team, whilst providing support to our volunteers. The role will be responsible for the planning and production of vegetables, as well as developing working relationships with the Picking and Packing Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator. The Community Grower reports to the Camel CSA Core Management Group as part of the monthly board meetings.

In addition to the Community Grower, the growing team consists of seasonal growers, field volunteers and a team of picking and packing volunteers. The Community Grower will actively be involved in preparing the jobs to be carried out by the growing team and volunteers, supported by the Volunteer Coordinator.

Job description

Title: Community Grower

Purpose of post: To lead and manage the production and distribution of mixed vegetables grown using organic, agroecological and no-dig principles to supply Camel CSA's weekly veg share membership.

Reporting to: Camel CSA Core Management Group

Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Devise a crop plan for year-round produce grown both outdoors and in polytunnels to organic, agroecological and no-dig principles
- Lead and implement propagation, planting, care, pest and disease management, harvest and storage of produce
- Support volunteers on site, with the support of the Volunteer Coordinator allocate tasks appropriately
- Plan, prioritise and adapt monthly / weekly / daily task lists for growers and volunteers as necessary
- Adhere to Camel CSA's core policies, principles and procedures
- Liaise with the core management group regarding requirements and progress, while advising and taking direction where appropriate.
- Work within an agreed budget set by the core management group and agree to any significant costs in advance.
- Produce a monthly grower report and attend core group meetings (typically monthly) when appropriate
- Undertake seed orders, regular stock takes and purchase of sundries
- Advise on implementation of health and safety guidelines
- Monitor and communicate site maintenance and groundskeeping needs
- Liaise with Picking and Packing Coordinator to plan weekly veg box contents
- Communicate effectively and appropriately with core management group, colleagues, CSA members, volunteers and external parties in line with Camel CSA code of conduct
- Organise occasional weekend volunteer sessions

Conditions

The hours of this post will be established in agreement with the Camel CSA Core Management Group and may include weekend work.

- This is a self-employed post for 32 hrs/week (Mar-Oct), 16 hrs/week (Nov-Feb)
- This post is subject to completion of 1 month trial (depending on experience)
- Salary: £13.00/hour rising to £13.66/hour after trial with an option of a small weekly veg box share

Person specification

Essential requirements:

- Growing experience
- Understanding of organic and agroecological farming principles and practices
- Experience working with volunteers - compassionate and professional communication skills
- Ability to lead tasks with a mixed team
- Very good organisational skills, including good time management and ability to prioritise competing tasks
- Ability to work efficiently, make decisions, while maintaining a keen eye for detail and good quality.
- Ability to work on own initiative and collaboratively as part of team
- Use of spreadsheets for planning and recording data

Desirable:

- Experience growing in the 'no dig' style
- Experience of leading training and workshops
- Experience of working cooperatively or in a CSA structure
- Commitment to CSA principles and working within a CSA cooperative structure
- Motivation and enthusiasm for working collectively with a team of growers and volunteers
- Commitment to creating a more diverse, inclusive and accessible food system
- Knowledge of safe working practices such as manual handling, safeguarding, first aid

Our commitments as a CSA

Camel CSA recognises the lack of diversity in the UK agricultural and environmental sectors. We have always aspired to be a participatory organisation, supporting the voices of our members and community. However, we recognise the learning and work we need to do to become a more inclusive CSA. We are committed to working to disrupt some of the structural barriers to food justice and strive to make the food we produce and land we farm accessible to all. We welcome all applications for our job roles and actively encourage minority groups to apply.

- We are not able to offer accommodation.

Please apply in writing including a cover letter and CV to:

secretary@camel-csa.org.uk

More about Camel CSA: <https://camel-csa.org.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CamelCSA>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/loveyourveg>