



River Queen Greens is seeking apprentices for the fall 2020 season.

About Us

River Queen Greens (RQG) is an urban production farm currently growing mixed vegetables and microgreens on 1 1/2 acres split between two production sites in New Orleans. We sell almost all of our vegetables through our seasonal farm shares, serving between 225-250 customers each week. Over the course of the next year RQG will continue to expand our production area and supporting infrastructure on our West Bank property, with the ultimate goal of cultivating approximately 2.5-3 acres of intensively managed low- and no-till vegetables.

Apprenticeships

We are seeking hard-working and motivated individuals who are enthusiastic about a career in sustainable agriculture, food production, and/or community food systems to join us as apprentices for the Fall 2020 season. This is an ideal position for someone with a demonstrated interest in agriculture but with little or no experience working on a production farm.

The River Queen Greens apprenticeship is a seasonal position with slight fluctuations in the work schedule based on the time of year. The apprenticeship is projected to run for 13 weeks, from September 21st (or first day) through December 18th 2020, with the possibility of extended employment for the spring 2021 season. Below are the anticipated apprenticeship work hours, but we are willing to accommodate part-time hours for the right candidate(s):

September 21 (or first day) -October 2

Monday - Friday 7am - 1pm

October 5-December 18

Monday-Thursday 7am - 4:30pm

Friday 7am-1pm

Apprentices will additionally be expected to participate in weekend greenhouse watering chores on a rotating basis throughout the season. We expect this rotation to be about one out of every 4 or 5 weekends.

In potential applicants, we value:

- an interest in managing or owning a farm business or operation
- an aptitude for physically demanding work in all weather conditions
- willingness to problem solve and think critically
- careful attention to detail
- a sense of humor and overall positive attitude
- a desire and ability to take on the challenges of the farm season, including fast-paced, physical work
- an interest in exploring how growing food and managing land intersect with and relate to some of our country's biggest challenges, including hunger and food access; healthcare; systemic racism and exclusion; economic opportunity, training, and education; and income and wealth generation

Applicants MUST have:

- excellent communication skills, a positive attitude, ability to take and give direction, and comfort working both alone and as part of a team
- ability to safely lift and carry 50 pounds
- reliable transportation to and from farm sites in Lower Coast Algiers and the Bywater
- an openness to working and collaborating with people of different races, ethnicities, gender identities, sexualities, and backgrounds

Responsibilities:

Assist the RQG farmers and Garden Manager in all aspects of vegetable production and fieldwork, including: greenhouse seeding; soil and field prep; field seeding and transplanting; microgreens production; weeding and cultivation; pest and disease management; harvest planning and post-harvest processing; CSA planning, packing, and distribution; equipment use and maintenance; and interaction with the public including CSA members, work shares, and volunteers.

Educational Opportunities:

- Continual hands-on training alongside RQG farmers and Garden Manager
- Encouraged participation in LA CRAFT (Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training) meetings and visits to other local farms
- Weekly farm field walks to discuss pest & disease control, weed ID, soil fertility, upcoming harvests, whole farm management, etc.
- Access to extensive farm library and *Growing for Market* magazine subscription
- Biweekly workshops as outlined below**

Compensation:

- \$15/hour
- Lots of produce!

To apply: Submit a resume, letter of interest, and 2-3 references to farmers@riverqueengreens.com. In your letter, please include past work experience and why you think you would be a good fit at River Queen Greens.

****Bi-Weekly Workshops****

As part of the apprenticeship, RQG farmers will host 7 targeted workshops for apprentices as well as other interested members of the general public. Workshops will begin on September 25th and will be scheduled for every other Friday morning through December 18. Workshop topics might include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Crop Planning (off farm)
 - seed catalogs and variety selection
 - adapting seed/growing information to Gulf South climate
 - interpreting the LSU Vegetable Growing guide
 - use of crop maps for visual record keeping
 - planning successions
 - organizing field binders
 - creating a seed order
2. Equipment Use & Maintenance (on farm - West Bank)
 - Tractor, zero-turn mower, and BCS training and safety
 - implement selection and use
 - DIY vs. shop maintenance and repair
3. Small-Scale Tool Selection and Infrastructure (on farm - Kentucky)
 - paperpot transplanter usage and applications
 - jang seeder usage
 - six row and earthway seeder introductions
 - washing machine salad spinner
 - coolbot cold storage
 - irrigation options

4. Farm Business Management (off farm)
 - bookkeeping/Quickbooks
 - expense and mileage tracking
 - social media and marketing
 - useful apps to help manage the business on the back-end
 - sales outlets

5. Soil Fertility, Weed and Pest Management Strategies (off farm)
 - soil testing and interpretation
 - compost and amendment application
 - landscape fabric and other mulches
 - row cover and netting
 - organic pesticides and when to use them
 - beneficial and predatory insects
 - large pest control (hogs, deer, bunnies, cats, rodents)

6. Primary Tillage, Field and Bed Prep, and Hoop House Production (off farm)
 - site selection and initial groundbreaking in urban and rural environments
 - small scale low- and no-till strategies
 - tractor-based no-till implements
 - occultation using tarps and landscape fabric
 - Hoop house soil preparation and (no-)tillage strategies

7. Harvesting, Post-Harvest Handling, and Packaging/Presentation (off farm)
 - harvest options for different vegetable groups
 - consideration when choosing harvest tools and bins
 - wash station design and workflow
 - food safety in the field and during wash and pack
 - optimum storage for different vegetables
 - our preferred packaging and presentation