

Introduction to Horticulture Farm Attendant Role

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Designed as a quick-reference guide for trainees, supervisors, and anyone interested in the fundamentals of this position.

1. Overview of the Role

Aspect	Description
Primary Goal	Support the daily operation of a horticultural farm to produce healthy, market-ready plants, fruits, vegetables, or ornamental crops. - Plant propagation - Crop maintenance (watering, fertilising, pruning)
Key Work Areas	- Pest & disease monitoring - Harvesting & post-harvest handling - Record-keeping and basic equipment upkeep
Typical Work Environment	Outdoor fields, greenhouses, shade houses, nurseries; exposure to varying weather conditions; occasional indoor tasks (e.g., seed lab, storage).
Reporting Line	Reports to the Farm Manager, Horticulture Supervisor, or Lead Grower.

2. Core Responsibilities

2.1 Plant Propagation

- Seed sowing** – prepare seed trays, label, and maintain proper moisture.
- Cuttings & grafting** – take, treat (e.g., rooting hormone), and place cuttings in propagation media.
- Transplanting** – move seedlings to larger containers or field beds at the appropriate growth stage.

2.2 Crop Maintenance

Task	Frequency	Key Points
Watering/irrigation	Daily to weekly (depends on crop & climate)	Use drip, sprinkler, or hand-watering; check soil moisture with a probe or feel.

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Fertilising	According to schedule or soil test results	Apply the right formulation (N?P?K) and rate; avoid over?application.
Pruning & training	As needed (e.g., shaping, removing dead wood)	Follow species?specific guidelines; use clean, sharp tools.
Mulching	Every planting season or as needed	Reduces weed pressure, conserves moisture, improves soil temperature.

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2.3 Pest & Disease Management

- **Scouting:** Walk rows, inspect leaves, stems, soil for signs of insects, mites, fungal spores, or bacterial lesions.
- **Identification:** Use field guides, mobile apps, or reference sheets.
- **Control:** Apply cultural, biological, or chemical measures per Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan.
- **Record:** Log observations, treatments, and outcomes.

2.4 Harvesting & Post?Harvest Handling

- **Timing:** Harvest at optimal maturity for quality and shelf?life.
- **Techniques:** Use clean tools; handle produce gently to avoid bruising.
- **Cleaning & Sorting:** Remove debris, sort by size/grade.
- **Storage:** Place in appropriate temperature/humidity conditions; label with date and batch.

2.5 Record?Keeping & Reporting

- **Daily logs:** Watering, fertiliser applied, pest observations, work performed.
- **Production sheets:** Planting dates, varieties, yields.
- **Equipment logs:** Maintenance, repairs, calibration.
- **Compliance:** Record pesticide applications per local regulations.

2.6 Equipment & Facility Maintenance

- Clean and sanitize tools after each use.
- Perform routine checks on irrigation systems, greenhouse fans, heaters, and ventilation.
- Assist with minor repairs (e.g., replacing a broken hose, tightening fittings).

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3. Essential Skills & Knowledge **Role**

Category Specifics