

# Introduction to Horticulture Farm Attendant Role

Introduction to the Horticulture Farm Attendant Role  
(A quick-reference guide for training, onboarding, or study)

## 1. Overview of the Position

| Aspect               | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Job Title            | Horticulture Farm Attendant (also called Horticultural Assistant, Nursery Attendant, or Greenhouse Keeper)                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Primary Goal         | Support the production, health, and quality of ornamental and edible plants while maintaining a safe, clean, and efficient work environment.                                                                                                                                                              |
| Key Work Areas       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Plant propagation &amp; cultivation</li><li>Soil &amp; nutrient management</li><li>Pest and disease monitoring</li><li>Irrigation &amp; climate control</li><li>Harvesting, packing, and post-harvest handling</li><li>Record-keeping and basic reporting</li></ul> |
| Typical Work Setting | Open fields, raised beds, greenhouses, shade houses, or nursery containers. May involve seasonal outdoor work and occasional indoor tasks (e.g., potting bench, seedling room).                                                                                                                           |
| Reporting Line       | Reports to the Horticulture Supervisor / Farm Manager / Head Grower. May supervise junior helpers or interns.                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## 2. Core Responsibilities

### 2.1 Plant Production

| Task                      | What It Involves                                                                             | Frequency                               |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Seed sowing & germination | Prepare seed trays, label, sow seeds at correct depth, cover, and place in germination area. | Daily (as needed)                       |
| Transplanting & potting   | Move seedlings to larger containers or field beds, ensure proper spacing and depth.          | Weekly/monthly, depending on crop cycle |

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| Task                          | What It Involves                                                                                | Frequency                           |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Pruning &amp; training</b> | Remove dead/diseased tissue, shape plants, apply training systems (e.g., trellising, espalier). | As growth stage dictates            |
| <b>Harvesting</b>             | Pick mature produce or cut flowers, handle gently to avoid damage, sort by size/quality.        | Harvest windows (daily during peak) |
| <b>Post-harvest handling</b>  | Clean, grade, pack, and store produce; apply cooling or humidity control as required.           | Immediately after harvest           |

## Role

## 2.2 Soil & Nutrition Management

| Activity                      | Details                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Soil preparation</b>       | Loosen, amend with compost or peat, test pH, incorporate fertilizers or lime.                              |
| <b>Fertilizer application</b> | Follow a schedule (e.g., basal, top-dress, foliar spray); use calibrated spreaders or fertigation systems. |
| <b>Mulching</b>               | Apply organic/inorganic mulch to conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate temperature.              |

## 2.3 Irrigation & Climate Control

| System                         | Duties                                                                             |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Drip / micro-sprinklers</b> | Inspect lines for leaks, adjust flow rates, flush filters.                         |
| <b>Overhead sprinklers</b>     | Set timers, monitor coverage, avoid over-watering.                                 |
| <b>Greenhouse climate</b>      | Check temperature, humidity, ventilation fans, shading screens; adjust set points. |
| <b>Water quality</b>           | Test pH and EC (electrical conductivity); maintain clean water sources.            |

## 2.4 Pest & Disease Management

| Step                  | Action                                                                                      |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scouting</b>       | Walk rows, inspect leaves, stems, roots; use hand lenses or magnifiers.                     |
| <b>Identification</b> | Compare symptoms to pest/disease charts; confirm with lab if needed.                        |
| <b>Control</b>        | Apply cultural, biological, or chemical measures per Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan. |

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| Step               | Action                    | Role |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------|
| Record?<br>keeping | Log occurrence, treatment |      |