



**SAUNDERS**  
**BROTHERS**  
SINCE 1915

---

2717 Tye Brook Hwy  
Piney River, VA 22964  
Phone: (434) 277-5455  
FAX: (434)277-8010

**Assistant Woody Grower**

August 3, 2018

**Job Description:** Saunders Brothers is a wholesale nursery and orchard operation in central Virginia. Saunders Brothers is looking for an Assistant Woody Grower. Under the direction of the Woody Grower, the Assistant Woody Grower is responsible for ensuring that optimal growth, quality, and health of plants is maintained.

**Requirements and duties would include the following:**

1. Plant Health Responsibilities – 60%
  - Scout crops weekly and review scouting reports.
  - Perform preliminary diagnostics on diseased plants/insect identification and submit samples as needed to extension labs (plant and insect).
  - Develop and execute Integrated Pest Management control programs for all woody production.
  - Maintain chemical inventory and determine annual order.
  - Maintain inventory of Personal Protective Equipment.
  - Coordinate and schedule team of applicators and equipment.
  - Train team of applicators in safety and technical skills.
  - Respond to calls after hours and on weekends when applicators are working.
  - Work with sales and shipping to avoid or minimize disruption from applications.
  - Respond to questions from sales team and customers.
  - Serve as backup for color section IPM when needed.
  - Communicate with propane supplier to fill tanks for production houses with heaters.
  - Oversee regular field tests to ensure proper growing conditions, including chemical and physical properties of growing media.
  - Assist in management of irrigation and water quality.
  - Assist in management of plant nutrition through monitoring, sampling, and fertilizing.
  - Help unload plant deliveries in the nursery and check plant material for quality and health.
  - Serve as the lead contact for maintaining the Boxwood Blight protocol and spray schedule.
  
2. Administrative Responsibilities - 30 %:
  - Check orders against acknowledgements, acknowledgements against packing slips, and packing slips against invoices.
  - Enter production potting numbers into database.
  - Maintain inventory of all picture tags for woody crops.
  - Assist Marketing Department in editing tags for accuracy.

- Print all bed signs and production tags for woody crops.
  - Assist Grower with orders for custom and branded tags.
  - Assist Grower with quarterly royalty reports for branded programs.
  - Keep patent information up-to-date and report that information to Marketing Department.
  - Enter Saunders Brothers Trial Data into Trial Tracker database for Syn-RG.
3. Miscellaneous Responsibilities - 10%:
- Attend conferences the company deems necessary and report on new ideas learned.
  - Assist Grower with other tasks as needed.
  - Backup for Grower on inventory walk throughs as needed.
  - Complete special projects and other duties as needed.
  - Must be willing to perform other duties as needed.

**Qualifications:**

- Must be able to obtain a Virginia Private Pesticide Applicator License.
- Prefer at least a 2-year college degree or 4 years of horticultural experience.
- Must have excellent math skills.
- Must have strong working knowledge of Microsoft Powerpoint, Excel, Word, and Outlook as well as other computer skills.
- Must be able to speak Spanish or be willing to learn to speak Spanish.
- Must be physically capable of performing the responsibilities and requirements of this position.
- Must have good organizational skills, be able to prioritize workload, and have flexibility as work demands change.
- Must have excellent communication skills and be able to effectively work with other staff members.
- Must have a strong work ethic and willingness to work with Saunders Brothers ‘Family’.
- Must be willing to work outside in all types of weather and may work alone in the nursery.
- Must be willing to work Saturdays on a rotating schedule and after hours, if necessary.
- Must have a valid VA Driver’s License.

**Supervisor:** This position will answer directly to the Woody Grower of Saunders Brothers, Inc.

**Pay and Benefits:** We offer a competitive salary, health insurance, vacation package, retirement bonus, seasonal bonus, and employee pricing on plants and farm market items. We also offer professional training and staff development opportunities for staff. This is a full-time year-round position.

**Drug Testing and Background Checks:** Saunders Brothers is committed to providing a drug-free and safe workplace. Therefore, all employees are subject to random drug testing, reasonable suspicion testing, and post-accident testing. In addition, all new employees will be subject to a background check.

**Start Date:** As soon as filled.

**Information and Application:** Contact Mari Johnson at [mjohnson@saundersbrothers.com](mailto:mjohnson@saundersbrothers.com). The job description may be seen at [www.saundersbrothers.com](http://www.saundersbrothers.com) and the application downloaded from the website. Application must be submitted with resume in order to be considered.

**Saunders Brothers Core Values**

**Faith-** Our Core Values and business practices are directed by our Christian faith.

**Integrity-** Honesty and truthfulness are foundational to our business.

**Passion-** We strive to enthusiastically share our love for Agriculture.

**Family-** Every team member is a part of the Saunders Brothers family.

### **Business Purpose**

To make a profit doing something we love.

To have a positive impact on our employees, customers, suppliers, community, and environment.

To provide a productive, nurturing, and fulfilling environment for our team.

### **Strategy**

To be a premier supplier of superb-quality plant material for garden centers, landscapers, and public gardens throughout the Eastern United States.

To be a premier supplier of extraordinary fruit to the people of the Mid-Atlantic area.