

Washington State University Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Display Garden

Internship

Pullman, Washington

India Cain

Summer 2018

Overview:

The Display Garden on Washington State University's campus provides a place for students, faculty and staff to relax and enjoy the beauty of many plants. It was designed by the students of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture in 2008 after the greenhouses were removed. By using the old foundation of those greenhouses, the students reduced costs to the department, while also providing an area for visitors to enjoy during the spring and summer months. The Garden is sectioned into four different parts, the Grass garden, the Shade garden, Sun garden and Waterwise garden. All different sections contain different types of plants and require lots of time and care in order to stay healthy. Because the garden has been neglected in the most recent years, making sure it is taken care of and well maintained has become a task that is necessary in order for people to continue visiting the area. It is an honor to be the person responsible for keeping the garden maintained throughout the growing season and months to come.



Left to right: 1. Sunflower garden at the beginning of the internship, May 2018, 2. Sunflower garden June 2018 after plant thinning

Responsibilities performed:

- Maintaining plant wellness and health
- Maintaining area cleanliness
- Pruning plants and keeping them out of walkways
- Maintaining pest issues
- Providing adequate water
- Proper irrigation scheduling
- Proper pruning techniques
- Sweeping and cleaning rubbish
- Communicating correct information to visitors
- Planting new specimens
- Transplanting specimens
- Training vines
- Establishing apical dominance in specimens
- Proper use of tools
- Identification of pests and diseases
- Using sprinklers for adequate watering
- Maintaining disease management techniques
- Weed removal
- Removal of dead or diseased plants
- Irrigation system set up
- Deadheading flowers
- Trimming hedges
- Identifying and maintaining wasp and bee issues



Left to right: 1. Black bean aphid infestation on locust trees July 2018, 2. Aphid infestation on indigo July 2018, 3. India in Sunflower garden July 2018.

Summary of experience:

During this internship I learned lots about how the agricultural industry can be impacted by many small changes within a system. The experiences I have had in this internship with pest and disease management, communicating with industry professionals, working with irrigation systems, and learning new ideas about agriculture will prepare me for my future career in the agricultural industry. Not only has this internship prepared me for what is to come, it has allowed me to grow as a person and improve my ability to communicate with people from different areas of interest. This has prepared me on how to effectively inform people who are uneducated about agriculture on current issues within the agricultural industry and solutions to those issues. Because of this internship, I feel as though it has very much prepared me for my future career choice and I will be able to apply the skills and abilities I have picked up along the way to a larger scale operation one day. Although managing and caring for such a small garden ends up being a very difficult task, it is a great feeling knowing that visitors are able to enjoy a place to get away and relax on campus because you have provided that for them.