



A variety of different seed are grown

Overview

The USDA Agricultural Research Service is a branch of the USDA that specializes in crop research to bring new information directed to aid and benefit producers and consumers in a variety of fields and markets. I worked with the the Phaseolus Collection, where I helped to grow a variety of beans for the curator of the program. The beans that are harvested in the greenhouses are listed in the GRIN-Global database where scientists can request any of beans we produce for research projects. In the greenhouse an array of *Polystachios*, and *Phaseolus species coccineus, acutifoliosus, vulgaris* and *lunatus* are grown. The ultimate goal in the greenhouses is to produce pure, high quality seed. One of the major ongoing accomplishments of this program has been being able to send seed to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.



Lady beetle dispersal, part of IPM program



Greenhouse 109, Bay B

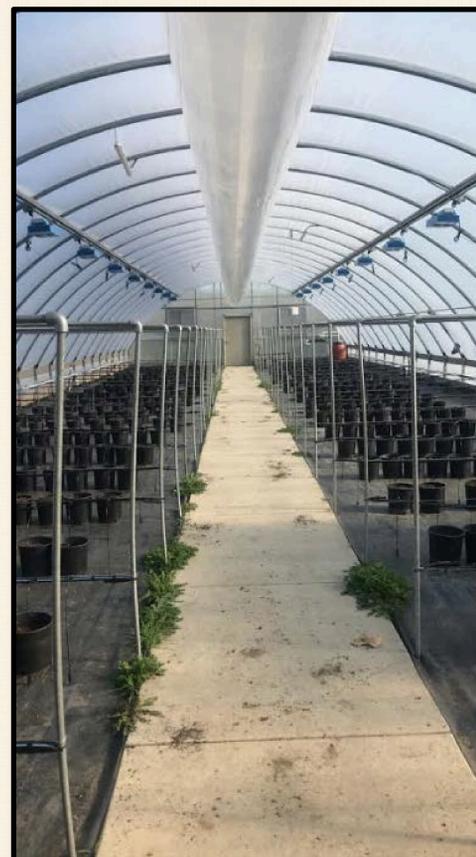


Standard Identification Card: Location, Inventory #, Plant # & Date, Flower Date, Start Harvest, End Harvest, etc.

Responsibilities

As I progressed through my internship experience I was given many opportunities to broaden my skillset and was given new tasks and responsibilities weekly. On a day to day basis, I often completed the same tasks such as harvesting and sweeping and cleaning. Some of my other responsibilities included (but certainly not limited to):

- Taking virus and DNA samples for testing
- Photo and data collection
- Starting and ending lines
- Planting seed
- Stringing and dripline system installation
- Extractable & non-extractable phenolics/pro-anthocyanin lab work
- Seed germination
- IPM program applications
- Hand pollination



Central Ferry Hoop house

Summary

During my internship experience, I was given a lot more opportunities than I had originally thought I would have. I thought that it would be more of a straightforward job, but I was able to make it what I wanted. I happened to have a mentor that was very passionate about her job and wanted to share her knowledge as much as possible to prepare me for future career choices. I have learned to become a more independent person and I would like to believe that I've developed great deductive and observational skills as well as problem solving skills. I was not very familiar with greenhouse management prior to entering into my internship and I can arguably say that I am almost to the point in my internship where I have the knowhow to successfully operate a small greenhouse on my own.



Seed photos



Seed Germination



People's Garden volunteer work: planting day