



Job Description – Orchard Manager

FirstFruits Farms is now seeking an experienced Orchard Manager to help coordinate and implement the company's various apple and cherry production activities. This would include coordinating activities such as irrigation, crop protection, pruning and harvesting. The ideal candidate should have direct experience managing and training orchard crews. In addition, the Orchard Manager should have working knowledge to forecast and track labor costs related to specific activities. Written and verbal communication skills are important. This position requires an independent, motivated self-starter who values working in a team setting. Formal education, technical certificate, and/or extensive work experience in the area of orchard production, or management is necessary. Candidates should have at least three years of supervisory work experience. Bilingual communication skills are a plus. This is a year-round position located near the Tri-Cities. Some travel is required to service additional growing areas near Benton City and Wallula. Competitive Salary. This position reports directly to the Vice President of Orchard Operations.

FirstFruits Farms LLC is one of the largest tree fruit companies in Washington State – growing, packing, shipping, and marketing over 6 million boxes of apples a year. FirstFruits Farms pursues a socially responsible business agenda, promoting social, and economic development opportunities for all of its employees and families.

Strategic responsibilities include:

- Supervise crew leaders and their crew members. This includes planning and implementing daily activities related to fruit production, such as irrigation, crop protection, pruning and harvesting.
- Implement best practices. Working knowledge of horticultural practices to produce high quality, consistent fruit.
- Support and assist in the annual planning process. Participate in the development and implementation of the company's strategic planning process, including the annual operating and capital expense budgets.
- Develop and train orchard workforce. Actively develop and improve the production skills and expertise of the orchard team.
- Improve productivity, efficiency and use of technology in the orchard. Work to identify annual performance goals for productivity, efficiency and adoption of technology. This should include tracking and measuring company progress.
- Ensure constant and informative communication between all employees and outside partners.

- Communication: ensure consistent and informative communication between all employees and outside partners; manage accurate record keeping and reporting systems.

Desired Qualifications/Requirements:

- At least three years of previous experience supervising a team
- Working knowledge of modern, high-density tree fruit production practices
- Proven ability to build and manage a team-oriented culture
- Strong leadership and decision-making skills
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to implement projects under pressure
- Proficiency in English and Spanish, a plus
- Familiar and comfortable using Microsoft Office software programs

Educational Qualifications

Bachelor degree in Horticulture, Ag Sciences or Management; and/or Extensive working experience in tree fruit production.