Island Grown Initiative Farm Field Crew (Short Season)

Island Grown Initiative is a non-profit on Martha’s Vineyard that works to build a regenerative and equitable food system for our community. We operate a 32-acre farm in the center of the island, and are in the process of transitioning our field acreage to low or no-till, regenerative practices. We seek hard-working and community-oriented field hands to help us build soil and grow food throughout the 2021 growing season.

The position begins on June 1 and ends on October 1, 2021. Work averages 40 hours a week over 5 days, with the expectation that some days will be longer than others depending on the needs of the farm, and daily start and end times will change during the hot summer months. Work days are also flexible, as weekend coverage will be needed through August.

Field Crew Responsibilities:

- **Greenhouse work:** seeding, watering, thinning, transplanting. Occasional work in our soil-based greenhouse systems.
- **Field work:** Seeding, planting, laying irrigation, weeding and hoeing, mulching, moving tarps and landscape fabric, regular lifting and moving of sand bags and irrigation pipes, and more.
- **Vegetable processing:** harvesting, washing, sorting, packing, and labeling produce for CSA distribution or other customers.
- **Other:** Tracking and entering field data, light carpentry and tractor work when applicable, interaction with volunteers, gleaners, student groups, and CSA members.

What we’re looking for:

- Job experience in agriculture (experience with growing vegetables is a plus)
- Detail-oriented and computer literate.
- Excellent listening skills, with a willingness to learn and discuss new ideas.
- Physically capable of sustained manual labor, including the ability to safely lift 50 pounds regularly.
- Passion for good food, regenerative farming practices, environmental stewardship, food equity and justice.
- Self-motivated, and able to work effectively both independently and as part of a team.
- Willingness and ability to work hard while maintaining a positive attitude.
- Ability to work in all weather conditions, including rain, wind, heat, etc.

Compensation:

We are working on housing solutions for future interns and field crew members, but are not able to provide housing at this time. Hourly pay rate starts at $16/hr, with increases based on experience.

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to tim@igimv.org. Thank you!
More about the Island and the Island Grown farm:

Martha’s Vineyard has a well-earned reputation as a summertime vacation destination. The Island is full of striking natural beauty, with lots of walking trails, conservation land, and one-of-a-kind beaches that our employees are encouraged to explore during their time with us. The Island hosts a large summer population, and is home to a vibrant year-round community that is steeped in history. Visitors and residents alike love this place for its intense seasonality, beauty, and small-community atmosphere.

Our farm has been used for agriculture since at least the 1400’s, but was acquired by Island Grown Initiative in 2012. 2019 was the first year we prioritized a transition to regenerative principles in our fields. We worked with eight acres to dramatically reduce soil disturbance, increase our use of ground covers and cover crops, integrate livestock rotations, utilize tarps to prepare planting beds and suppress weeds, and trial new systems of carbon and compost applications to boost soil health. The changes we’ve seen in soil health and crop productivity on this acreage has already been dramatic.

In order to help address growing community food insecurity brought on by Covid-19, we expanded our growing space from 8 to 14 acres in 2020. For the 2021 growing season, we will continue to utilize all 14 acres for crop production while furthering our experimentation and development of regenerative growing systems, including the creation of new tools and tractor implements to make these systems as labor-efficient as possible.

Much of the food we produce will be sold through both our summer and winter CSAs, our discounted price mobile farmer’s market (which accepts SNAP and HIP benefits), and to a few wholesale outlets. The majority of what we grow is distributed through our Island’s food equity network, which supplies the food pantry, local schools, elder housing, prepared meals programs, and other community stakeholders.

Our farm is a community space, and crew members will not only assist with all aspects of food production and soil health activities, but will interact with a broad swath of community members. This includes gleaners coming to help harvest food for donation to islanders in need, a diverse cast of local and visiting volunteers, and our dynamic Island Grown staff, who work on programs from food waste capture and composting to farm to school education. We are a busy, multi-faceted non-profit, and we hope to have more passionate food-system advocates join our team!