

# de hortus

Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam - anno 1638

The Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam is one of the oldest botanical gardens in the world. The garden was founded in 1638 as Hortus Medicus and grew over four centuries into a beautiful botanical garden with a thriving collection. It is a green oasis in the center of the city with a collection of about 4,000 species from five continents. The Hortus is an independent foundation that derives most of its income from ticket sales, catering, room rental and the shop. In addition, the Hortus receives an annual contribution from the municipality of Amsterdam and there is income from fundraising. It is also supported by a large and loyal Association of Friends. Activities and events are organized throughout the year. This and more is made possible by the efforts of approximately 65 enthusiastic employees and 80 volunteers.

Do you have a green thumb and are you hungry for more botanical knowledge? Or do you have a theoretical education in the field of botany/botany but would you also like to enjoy yourself outside in a garden with a documented collection of live plants? Then read on for a versatile plant function in the Amsterdam botanical garden.

We are looking for a new colleague for the position of:

## **COLLECTION SPECIALIST/BOTANICAL GARDENER** **For the Outdoor collections Climate and Biodiversity** **32 hours per week**

'A botanist in the 21st century is a taxonomist, a gardener, an ecologist, an educator, a researcher, a botanist, a conservationist, a breeder, a team player, a ...'

### **What will you do:**

You will become part of the botanical team of the Hortus. As a gardening botanist with a doer's mentality, you will further develop part of the collection and develop it in a garden that is attractive to the public. In addition to the development and maintenance of the collection itself, you also ensure that the inventory of the plants under your management is in order (see also <https://dehortus.gardenexplorer.org>). In addition, you contribute to making the collections suitable for educational purposes, research and/or nature conservation.

You will be responsible for the development and maintenance of a number of outdoor sections in the Hortus, constructed in 1864 (period: romanticism), of a total of 1500m<sup>2</sup>.

The Hortus asks itself the question: "What will we face in the coming years with regard to climate change and how do we respond to this with the development of a well-functioning ecosystem 'garden'?", whereby we as a botanical garden naturally emphasize the assortment. Core understanding

Key concepts are: climate adaptation, assisted migration, indigenous/exotic plants, genetic diversity, abiotic preconditions, key stone species.

### **Objectives:**

- Visually appealing to the audience
- Great educational value
- Resistant to climate change
- Great botanical diversity and vibrant with (insect) life

A sketch design has already been developed for these outdoor sections. The new collection specialist will further develop the sketch design and ultimately create and maintain a new theme garden "biodiversity and climate change".

**What do we ask:**

- You have a solid knowledge of plants and experience with ecological gardening;
- You have an aesthetic sense of planting and know how to stylishly bring together aesthetics, collection structure and garden ecology;
- You have a scientific understanding of flora and their relationships with other species;
- You feel like working in the garden in any weather and physically demanding work does not suit you;
- You can work with heavy tools or are willing to learn this. Think of working with a chainsaw, driving a wheel loader or an aerial platform.
- You have didactic skills;
- You have completed Kew Diploma or you have a completed bachelor (Bsc.) in plant-related/botanical study and the ambition to develop in botanical horticulture, starting with obtaining the online RHS level 2 Diploma in the first year of employment.
- We expect you to speak excellent English, but since the working language is Dutch, we expect you to master the Dutch language quickly.

In addition, you are :

- Practical and accurate;
- Assertive and empathetic;
- Can independently build, organize, apply and exchange knowledge with third parties;
- Has the patience to perform manual work carefully and to teach others;
- Can work independently but is also there for colleagues.

You have thorough professional knowledge and scientific understanding of botany and plant growth that you want to apply and develop in the Hortus. You passionately transfer that knowledge to volunteers and interns who help you get the yard work done. You are able to develop a work plan and plan and organize your own gardening and administrative work. You can solve horticultural problems independently by using your own knowledge or using knowledge from others within or outside your own organization.

For the detailed and botanical garden work required in botanical gardens, we orient ourselves on the British RHS and Kew diploma programs. The "RHS level 2 Diploma in the Principles and Practises of Horticulture" is the entry level. We offer the possibility to follow the online RHS training within the employment contract.

**What can we offer you:**

This is a position for 32 hours per week. The appointment is initially for 1 year with the prospect of extension. The position is classified in scale 7 of the Collective Labor Agreement for Social Work (min € 3,026 and max € 4,523) with growth opportunities to scale 8 in the long term (with a maximum of € 4,983 for full-time employment 36 hours per week), This does not include 8% holiday allowance and 4% end-of-year bonus. In addition, the Hortus has a good travel expenses scheme and you participate in the pension scheme of the Hortus. You will have access to the network of colleagues in the Dutch (and European) botanical gardens and opportunities for further training in the botanical and horticultural field.

Are you interested?

Send your motivation letter and CV to Rob Verkerk, HR advisor, [rob.verkerk@dehortus.nl](mailto:rob.verkerk@dehortus.nl) no later than February 14, 2025. For more information about the position, please contact Sven Focke, collection specialist/botanical gardener from 30 December on 06-43259360.

The Hortus endorses the Code of Ethics, the Culture Governance Code, the Diversity and Inclusion Code and the Fair Practice Code.

We do not appreciate acquisition as a result of this advertisement.