

Senior Horticultural Assistant & Propagator

Location: Melkinthorpe, Penrith, Cumbria – On-site

Salary: Competitive, Dependent on Experience (DOE)

Job Type: Full-time, Permanent

Start Date: February 2027

Closing Date: 10th January 2027

About Us

Nestled in the heart of Eden Valley, Larch Cottage Nurseries is a unique, independent family-run nursery renowned for its extensive and eclectic collection of rare and unusual plants. Over the last 40 years, we have built a reputation for producing premium-quality stock alongside our beautiful romantic gardens, chapel, and popular restaurant. We take immense pride in propagating much of our own stock, and we are looking for a dedicated plantsperson to join our expert nursery team ahead of our upcoming spring season.

The Role

We are seeking an experienced **Senior Horticultural Assistant and Propagator** to take a key role in our plant production, **commencing in February 2027**. This is a hands-on position ideal for someone with a deep passion for plants, strong botanical knowledge, and excellent practical skills. Working closely with our propagation team, you will ensure our high standards of plant health, growth, and presentation are maintained year-round.

Key Responsibilities

- **Propagation Excellence:** Lead and execute seed sowing, division, and a wide variety of cutting techniques to produce a diverse range of hardy perennials, shrubs, and climbers.
- **Crop Care & Cultivation:** Oversee the daily care of nursery stock, including precision watering, potting, pruning, weeding, and managing greenhouse environments.
- **Plant Health & Biosecurity:** Routinely monitor plants for pests, diseases, and nutritional deficiencies, implementing integrated pest management (IPM) practices to keep stock immaculate.
- **Nursery Organisation:** Maintain clean, efficient, and well-labelled propagation and growing spaces, assisting with stock management and mentoring junior or seasonal staff when needed.

What We Are Looking For

- **Experience:** Proven commercial experience in a retail nursery, production nursery, or large private estate, with a strong track record in plant propagation.
- **Knowledge:** Excellent plant identification skills and an understanding of the specific growing requirements for a vast palette of plants.
- **Certifications:** A PA1/PA6 spraying license is a distinct advantage, though not essential.

- **Traits:** A hard-working, self-motivated individual who enjoys physical work outdoors in all seasons. You must have a keen eye for detail and the ability to work well both independently and as part of a close-knit team.

Why Join Us?

- **Competitive Salary:** Rewarded based on your experience and skill level.
- **Incredible Working Environment:** Spend your days surrounded by beautiful, mature display gardens and a peaceful, creative atmosphere.
- **Perks:** Staff discounts across the nurseries and our on-site restaurant.
- Free on-site parking.

How to Apply

If you want to work with a world-class collection of plants in a beautiful corner of Cumbria, we would love to hear from you.

Please email your CV and a covering letter highlighting your propagation experience to jo@larchcottage.co.uk.

*Please note: The closing date for applications is **10th January 2027**.*