

Tagawa Greenhouse Enterprise, LLC Internship Summary

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If I could summarize my internship in just one sentence I think it would be impossible. There were too many amazing experiences to be able to sum up the internship in such a way. From the very beginning of the internship I, as an intern, was immediately immersed and welcomed into the Tagawa Greenhouse operation. This feeling carried through the entire internship to the very last day.

When leaving for Colorado the plan was to arrive a few days early to settle into the house and get situated. Little did I know this was going to change very soon. A few days before the interns arrived at Tagawa there had been a windstorm and it had taken off a lot of greenhouse roofs. All of the plugs in these houses needed to be moved so there would be as minimal of a loss as possible. This is how I spent the first two days of the internship and I loved it because it gave me the chance to jump into work right away and try to get a handle on what was coming.

After orientation I started working in the greenhouse. The first stop was the seeding department. Here I spent time learning how the tray filler worked as well as how the seeding machines operated. In addition, I got to spend time with the seeding department manager to discuss how they handle the seed inventory and volume in addition to how they plan the seeding for each week. I found this department extremely interesting because I had never seen this aspect of the greenhouse business before. I was very interested in learning how the seeding of such a high volume of seeding was accomplished.

After seeding I was able to spend time learning about various other aspects of Tagawa Greenhouses including their Propagation department, Plug Production, Production at Tagawa Southwest in New Mexico, Marketing, Shipping and Distribution, Receiving, Maintenance, Finished Production, Human Resources, and Business Management. The majority of my time spent at Tagawa's was spent learning about Plug and Finished Product Production as well as Business management. Sometimes I would only spend a little time in a department but I learned something from every department and person I was able to spend time with.

During my time in Plug Production, I spent time with a grower at and was able to work with him and actually see a crop from just being seeded and germination to the time it was ready to be shipped. I found this experience invaluable because I had only seen plug production on a smaller scale. I learned a lot about how to manage and grow on a larger scale than I had previously been exposed to.

Another large chunk of my time at Tagawa's, the last month specifically, I was able to spend time with key managers and owners of the company and talk to them about what I called the "big picture." Up to this point I had a chance to work or spend time in all aspects of the greenhouse from seed to soil to growing to shipping. By being able to talk to these key managers I was better able to fit together all of the pieces I had seen so far to be able to see the big picture of how the greenhouse operates on a day to day, month to month, and ultimately a year to year basis.

Over the course of my six month internship I was also given an intern project to work on and then present my findings to key managers and employees of the company at the end of the internship. The project I was given to work on was updating photo templates that the company uses in plug production to help them keep growing a consistent and uniformly, high quality crop every time. Before I was able to update the photo templates I was also tasked with re-designing and documenting the creation process of a photo template so that in the future there would be a process in place to create

new photo templates. I found that working on this project really helped me feel more like I was contributing something back to Tagawa's. I feel like I learned so much from being able to have this experience but the project helped me take what I was learning and use it to benefit the company now and in the future.

My internship at Tagawa Greenhouse Enterprises was such an amazing experience for me. Not only was I able to grow as a professional in the horticulture industry I was also able to grow personally. This internship allowed me to experience new opportunities that very few people are privileged to experience at such a young age. It has helped me cement in my mind that horticulture is my passion and it is what I want to spend my life doing. I hope that one day I will be able to pass on as much knowledge and passion to the young professionals in horticulture as I was able to experience through this internship.



Here I am watering some plants while working in finished production.



Here I am taking a soil sample.



Here I am in the seed cooler putting away seed after it has been weighed after use.