

This summer I had the opportunity to complete an internship at Welby Gardens in Arvada, Colorado through the Vic and Margaret Ball internship program. I completed a 13-week internship where I had the chance to get hands-on experience and put into practice everything that I have learned in my classes about growing and learning how plants function.

I spent the majority of my time at Welby working alongside the growers on the grow team. Here I learned the 5 levels of water, when and when not to water, how to water with fertilizer, check the EC of the water. One of my favorite and most informative duties I got to perform was applying chemicals like PGRs, fungicides, and pesticides. I got to work the the head grower when first applying chemicals so, I could learn why we were spraying specific chemicals and what effect they have on the plant when they are sprayed. When I was not working with the growers I had time to work with production. On one day I got experience pulling orders for customers and I also had the chance to help stick cuttings into plug trays. I took advantage of any opportunity to ask questions and experience different job duties to get a good overall sense of how a commercial greenhouse operates.

Everyone at Welby was very welcoming and happy to have someone eager to learn from them and get experience in the industry. I will leave my time at Welby being grateful to everyone on the grow team and production for taking me under their wing and showing me everything they know. As well as being great mentors answering all my questions and explaining in detail why things are done the way they are. Welby was a great internship host to get practical hands-on knowledge to see what it is truly like working in the industry.

Before starting my internship I believed that after completing my degree in horticulture I wanted to find a career in commercial greenhouse production where I would focus my skills and knowledge on growing plants. After, completing my internship at Welby I still have a passion for

growing plants, but I do not think I would look to go into a large commercial-scale production. My reason is that I enjoy having a part to play in the different stages of the plant's stages while being at the greenhouse. I enjoy receiving cuttings and participating in transplants as well as watering and being the grower responsible for making sure the plant is healthy and free of pests and disease. What I learned from my time at Welby is that there are whole departments that are responsible for different stages along the plant's time at the greenhouse. In smaller-scale operations the team of workers is smaller so, that provides more opportunities to help with more responsibilities around the greenhouse.

In the future, I look forward to completing my degree in horticulture and starting my career in the greenhouse industry. I enjoy working in the floriculture industry and want to find myself in a greenhouse hopefully in the future working as a head grower. Where I can continue to grow beautiful plants and teach the next generation of growers.



