Horticulture Career Pathways

Career Stage

Start here for a SCIENCE career

Science and research involves working with growers to test and trial ways to solve problems in production and post harvest.

0 - 2 Years experience Leading Self

Obtain a science degree(s)

3 - 4 Years experience Leading Team / Technical Specialist

- Research technician
  - Support lab, field, orchard, indoor science. Areas such as soil, plant, pest and disease, water, breeding
- Junior consultant / agronomist
  - Support growers to implement more effective production practices

5 - 10 Years experience Leading Teams / Technical Team

- Applied research scientist
  - Lead lab, field, orchard, indoor, science
- Horticulture consultant / agronomist
  - Lead support to growers to implement more effective production practices and with specialist knowledge such as pest management

10 + Years experience Leading Business Operations

- Research and development manager
  - Lead a range of research project teams

Start here for a PRODUCTION career

Production includes everything involved in growing fruit and vegetables on orchards, in the field, and indoors.

0 - 2 Years experience Leading Self

- Production worker
  - Work on all aspects of orchard, indoor/outdoor crops including harvesting, plant care, and construction
- Tractor driver / machinery operator
  - Operate machinery to complete agrichemical spray application, forklift movements, mowing, planting, harvesting, and construction

Begin a cadetship or apprenticeship

3 - 4 Years experience Leading Team / Technical Specialist

- Production specialist
  - Provide technical expertise in specialist areas such as plant husbandry, grafting & frost protection
- Production supervisor
  - Lead a team of people for; harvesting, plant care, construction, orchard, indoor/outdoor crops, quality control

5 - 10 Years experience Leading Teams / Technical Team

- Production leading hand
  - Lead teams of workers in orchard, indoor or outdoor production operations including health and safety, quality, and environmental management

10 + Years experience Leading Business Operations

- Production manager / contractor
  - Manage all operations for an orchard, indoor or outdoor production operation(s)

Start here for a POST HARVEST career

Post-harvest and packing processes involve ensuring that produce meets market quality standards by supporting their production, packing, and distribution.

0 - 2 Years experience Leading Self

- Post harvest worker
  - Work on all aspects of: packing line, coolstore, grading, and quality control

3 - 4 Years experience Leading Team / Technical Specialist

- Junior advisor (liaison / technical)
  - Support advisory of growers to meet packing / post-harvest standards
- Post harvest supervisor
  - Lead a team of workers in; packing line, coolstore, grading, and quality control
- Post harvest specialist
  - Operate machinery for; packing lines, coolstores, graders, and monitor quality control

5 - 10 Years experience Leading Teams / Technical Team

- Grower liaison
  - Support growers with production including compliance, health and safety, environmental management, quality control standards
- Post harvest leading hand
  - Lead teams of workers in; packing line, quality control, coolstore

10 + Years experience Leading Business Operations

- Grower liaison manager
- Post harvest manager
  - Leading all aspects of regulatory compliance, supply chain, workforce management, logistics, and packhouse

Start here for an TECHNOLOGY career

Technology includes supporting the development and use of technology in production and post harvest stages.

0 - 2 Years experience Leading Self

Obtain an engineering degree / diploma

3 - 4 Years experience Leading Team / Technical Specialist

- Electronics / machinery engineer
  - Develop, install, and fix specialist technology
- Software developer
  - Develop, test, install, and update specialist software for technology

10 + Years experience Leading Business Operations

- Engineering / technology manager
  - Manage a team in an engineering speciality or general area

Start here for a BUSINESS career

Business roles support operations and strategy of all elements.

0 - 2 Years experience Leading Self

Obtain a business degree / diploma

3 - 4 Years experience Leading Team / Technical Specialist

- Business analyst
  - Specialist in one or more of; accounting, administration, marketing, sales, compliance, health and safety, environmental management, market access, communications, supply chain, management, human resources

5 - 10 Years experience Leading Teams / Technical Team

- Senior specialist
  - Lead a team of workers in; accounting, administration, marketing, sales, compliance, health and safety, environmental management, market access, communications, supply chain, management, human resources

10 + Years experience Leading Business Operations

- Specialist manager
  - Lead a team in an area such as supply chain, marketing and sales, compliance, market access, finance, communications, human resources

10+ Years experience Leading Business

- General manager
- CEO / owner / director