



GROWERS OF TOMORROW™ 2009 PROGRAM PARTICIPANT APPLICATION

The Syngenta Growers of Tomorrow program is designed for undergraduate students actively enrolled in horticulture programs at 28 selected universities across the country. Professors at participating universities will each nominate one student that they feel best qualifies for the program.

The program immerses the winning Growers of Tomorrow student who is interested in pursuing a career in horticulture into an internship that provides them with an opportunity to gain exposure to the following areas:

- The many business challenges face by growers.
- First-hand view of a leading company that produces chemical and biological pest solutions, media, and genetics, as well as crop distribution in the industry.
- Ornamental technical and marketing communications development.

About the Program

One student will be selected by each participating university based on his/her submission package: an application, essay, and a referral letter from an academic advisor or professor in the student's area of study. This group of 28 national qualifiers will be narrowed by a panel of industry leaders (three Syngenta representatives and three non-Syngenta representatives) to the top three finalists following the assessment of their submission packages. One of the three finalists will be named the Syngenta Grower of Tomorrow in March 2009.

The Grower of Tomorrow will be awarded a \$2,500 scholarship and a paid internship based at Syngenta North American Headquarters in Greensboro, NC. Syngenta will be responsible for the winner's lodging during their internship. Each of the other two finalists will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

The internship includes the following*:

- **Syngenta Mentors** The mentors will provide leadership and experiences related to their chosen study. The mentors will be from the four Syngenta companies (Conrad Fafard, Inc. Syngenta Flowers, Inc., Syngenta Horticultural Services, and Syngenta Professional Products). The intern will have the opportunity to learn the challenges in the industry, critical pest issues, and components of the business.
- **Tradeshows/Industry Events** The Grower of Tomorrow will attend the 2009 OFA Short Course in July 2009 and the 2009 TOCA (Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association) 20th Anniversary meeting in May in Puerto Rico. The intern will have the opportunity to walk the show floor at the OFA with Syngenta personnel and attend

learning sessions. The intern will write an article about the OFA that will be featured on the GreenCast® website.

- **Travel to Syngenta Companies** As part of the complete learning experience, the Grower of Tomorrow will be given the opportunity to visit the ornamental Syngenta businesses, which are located at various locales across the country. The details of the schedule will be arranged by the Grower of Tomorrow's primary contact at Syngenta.

**The details of this program are subject to change and are flexible based upon the student's schedule.*

Grower of Tomorrow Application Process

Please complete the application and submit with your essay to the sponsoring faculty member at each university. The universities need to submit their nominee's application to Syngenta, post- marked by February 27, 2009. Each nominee will need to have a referral letter from the sponsoring faculty member submitted with his or her entry. Selection of the four finalists will occur by March 13, 2009. The final Grower of Tomorrow selection will take place by March 27.

Qualifications and Selection

The qualifications for applying to the program are as follows:

- o Student must have a 3.0 or better GPA
- o Must be a junior or senior at one of the 28 pre-selected universities:

- Auburn University
- Clemson University
- Colorado State University
- Cornell University
- Iowa State University
- Kansas State University
- Louisiana State University
- Michigan State University
- Mississippi State University
- North Carolina State University
- Ohio State University
- Oregon State University
- The Pennsylvania State University
- Purdue University
- Texas A&M University
- Texas Tech University
- University of California-Davis
- University of Florida
- University of Georgia
- University of Maryland
- University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- Virginia Tech
- University of Delaware
- University of Minnesota
- University of Arkansas
- University of Kentucky
- West Virginia University
- Washington State University

- o Must be enrolled in a horticulture or related program with studies in ornamentals and have a letter of recommendation by a current faculty member.
- o Must complete an application and submit an essay (refer to the requirements) on two to three best management practices involved in the integration of growing media, genetics, weed control, pest control, and fertilization.

About the 2008 Grower of Tomorrow:

Jessica Goebel, a student at Kansas State University, was awarded the title of Syngenta Grower of Tomorrow in early 2008. She began the program by attending the 2008 TOCA Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN, where she met with industry communications experts from across the nation. She later traveled to the annual Syngenta educational symposium—Lectures in Bloom™ in Vero Beach, FL. This gave Jessica the opportunity to meet with Florida growers to learn some of the top challenges they are facing in their area. Researchers from esteemed universities presented their latest research. Her internship included travel to visit growers from across the country with technical representatives from Syngenta Professional Products, Syngenta Flowers, Inc., and Conrad Fafard, Inc.

Essay: Submit a 500-word essay on one of the two topics listed below.

- o Write an essay about your career aspirations and how you plan to incorporate your education into horticulture. The essay could include the following topics:
 - Next steps after graduation
 - Goals for 5, 10, 20 years from now
 - If selected as the finalist, how do you plan to incorporate your experience from the internship into your career?
 - What is the one thing that you hoped to learn in your horticulture studies or experiences that you have not had the opportunity to learn?

- o Growers are faced with many challenges; one, for example, is pest resistance management. Write an essay that articulates the challenges of pest resistance (referencing diseases, weeds, or insects). Other points of interest that should be covered in the essay include:
 - How to deal with challenges or solve problems

References

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Company/School:

Relationship: _____ Known how long:

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Company/School:

Relationship: _____ Known how long:

Research Projects/Studies (*Related to Horticulture*)

Please describe briefly below all research projects or studies you have participated in during the course of your study, whether through the university, an internship, or job. Include the topic, goals, and results. Identify what you learned from the experiences. Feel free to attach additional pages featuring summaries and results from your studies.

Topic:

Goals:

Results:

Research Projects/Studies (*Related to Horticulture*)

Topic:

Goals:

Results:

Research Projects/Studies (*Related to Horticulture*)

Topic:

Goals:
