

Fiddler's Ridge Nursery Potlatch, Idaho Spring of 2017 Jared Schmick

Introduction

For my internship I worked at Fiddler's Ridge Nursery in Potlatch Idaho. Fiddler's Ridge Nursery is operated and owned by husband and wife John Madden and Theresa Greiner. Fiddler's Ridge was established over 20 years ago and has been a local institution for plants and gardening knowledge. The nursery consists of 3 hot houses, 3 cold houses, a store, and numerous outdoor displays of products. The nursery has plants like vegetables, grasses, seed potatoes, perennials, annuals, fruit trees, shrubbery, citrus, ornamentals, herbs, cactus, and many many more. The nursery is also a store supplying seeds, soil, gardening supplies, fertilizers, planters, and novelty items. Fiddler's Ridge also does small landscaping jobs for residents throughout the Pullman and Moscow area.



Front of the Fiddler's Ridge Nursery and Store



Back view of Fiddler's Ridge Nursery and Store. The red house is where Theresa the owner and her husband live

Responsibilities

My responsibilities at Fiddler's Ridge were vast. Large portions of my time were spend transplanting seedlings or plugs. I was given the task of transplanting often as it is a very delicate process but also a process the nursery needed to be completely efficiently. Aside from transplanting I worked on pruning and caring for the plants throughout the spring season. I also help customers with advice on what plants to use and where to plant them as well as working sales at the Nursery. I also spent my time at the nursery working on repairs and maintenance. I helped erect two cold houses as well as helped build new landscape features to display plants on. Lastly I spend time with new employees helping mentor them as well as aiding them on plant knowledge. Since some employees did not come from horticulture background like I did it was important to Theresa that I check over their work and methods to make sure they were not damaging or causing quality loss to the plants.



Picture of tomatoes harvest from plants supplied by Fiddlers Ridge. Left to right- Sungold, Celebrity, Berkely Tye-die, Blue Wagner

Summary

Overall I learned lots from my employer and mentor Theresa Greiner while at my internship at Fiddlers Ridge. I learned vast amounts about nursery management as well as the knowledge behind all the plants. Before my internship I barely knew any of the plants at Fiddler's Ridge or their ideal growing climate. After my experience I was able to fully express what the plant was and how it should be grown to customers. Above all the most important knowledge and experience I had at Fiddlers Ridge was interacting with customers. Both in sales and advice my interactions with customers will greatly benefit my success in viticulture and enology. It will be critical in my future to be able to interact with the buyer of the grapes in my vineyard as well as explain the biology behind the vineyard to customers who tour the vineyard. I also learned that being genuine and treating customers like family can keep a business going, and that will be key in getting return customers to the winery/vineyard I work at.



Inside the first greenhouse built at Fiddlers Ridge. This is the sales house and is usually filled with the most expensive and most exotic plants. It is the only greenhouse kept hot all year.



Theresa Greiner my mentor and owner of Fiddlers Ridge standing in the largest hot house



Succulents I had just finished freshly transplanted