



International Dendrology Society

Trees and Shrubs *Online*

IDS Trees and Shrubs Online

Job Title: Staff Author

Location: Primarily working from home

Job Type: Full-time (negotiable to a minimum of 60% FTE)

Employer: International Dendrology Society, Hergest Estate Office, Kington, Herefordshire, HR5 3EG

Reports to: TSO Editorial Team

Salary: £34-38,000 dependent on experience

Job Overview: We are seeking a knowledgeable and enthusiastic author with expertise in botany and horticulture to contribute to *Trees and Shrubs Online*, the International Dendrology Society's digital encyclopaedia of hardy woody plants. The focus of this role is producing new authoritative accounts of trees, shrubs, and woody climbers cultivated in temperate gardens worldwide; assistance with editorial tasks will also form a significant element of the role, especially updating taxonomy.

The ideal candidate will possess a thorough knowledge of both botany and horticulture, combined with excellent communication skills, time management and proven self-motivation.

<https://treesandshrubsonline.org>

Editor-in-Chief Dr John Grimshaw MBE, FLS
editor@treesandshrubsonline.org

International Dendrology Society
Hergest Estate Office, Kington, Herefordshire, HR5 3EG
Registered Charity 1178252

Key Responsibilities:

- Produce comprehensive and authoritative illustrated articles on trees, shrubs, and other woody plants as directed by the Editorial Team and within a dedicated content management system.
- Conduct thorough research on assigned plant groups, ensuring all information is accurate, current, and scientifically sound. Collaborate with external experts and researchers to ensure content aligns with the latest horticultural and botanical standards.
- Create detailed plant profiles, including information on identification, climate preferences, soil requirements, pest and disease susceptibility and resistance, and best horticultural practices.
- Assisting with editorial tasks including but not limited to updating taxonomy, sourcing images, adding pages as required, and supplementing existing articles.

Person specification – essential:

- Proven experience in writing on horticulture for diverse audiences
- Knowledge of horticultural practice and theory, particularly with regard to woody plants
- A working knowledge of botany, plant systematics and taxonomy
- Ability to research, verify, and present detailed scientific and horticultural information in an accessible and engaging manner
- Confidence in all aspects of digital working and communication
- Familiarity with and regular use of social media
- Excellent written communication skills, with a demonstrable ability to write clear, concise, and informative and engaging text in English
- Good interpersonal communication
- Self-motivated and able to work independently and remotely while adhering to deadlines
- Flexibility for occasional travel for research and networking purposes

Person specification – desirable:

- A degree or equivalent qualification in botany, horticulture, plant sciences, or a closely related field
- Experience with photography of plants and plant-related illustrations
- Experience in working with a large database/CMS
- Knowledge of ecological considerations in horticulture, such as sustainable practices and climate adaptability

- Familiarity with horticultural literature and botanical and taxonomic reference works
- Access to a comprehensive horticultural library, via e.g. institutional associations

Application Requirements:

The application process for this role will comprise two stages:

- 1) In the first instance please email a CV and covering letter detailing your suitability for this post to John Grimshaw editor@treesandshrubsonline.org by 12 noon UK time on Friday 29 November 2024.
- 2) A short-list of candidates will be invited to submit an entry in Trees and Shrubs Online format and style on a named woody plant. Those deemed to be of sufficient standard will then be invited to interview.

Application Timeline

Please submit your CV and covering letter by email only to John Grimshaw editor@treesandshrubsonline.org by 12 noon UK time on Friday 29 November 2024.

Candidates we wish to invite to submit an essay as the second part of the application will be advised no later than 6 December.

Essays must be submitted by 12 noon on 23 December.

Candidates will be advised if they are to be interviewed no later than 3 January.

Interviews will take place by Zoom on 13 January 2025.

If you wish to discuss this post prior to applying, please contact John Grimshaw editor@treesandshrubsonline.org to arrange a conversation.