



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why do we need workers?

A. Place UK, like many other growers around the UK have predominantly relied on seasonal workers on a temporary basis from the EU. With international travel limited by the Covid-19 pandemic, our booked and contracted workers are likely to be delayed, therefore there is a need for people who are living in the UK to fill these jobs. These jobs have always been available to people living in the UK but due to low unemployment figures and the seasonality of the work there has historically been a low volume of interest from within the UK.

Q. Are farm workers considered key workers by the Government?

A. Yes, the government has classified workers under 'food and other necessary goods' as key workers. This includes people involved in the production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery of food. This means as a key worker you are able to travel to and from work, and your children may still be able to attend their local school.

Q. What sort of work is available?

A. The vast majority of the work will be manual fruit picking. There may be other types of work, but in much smaller numbers, for example team leaders, supervisors, quality controllers and tractor drivers.

Q. Is there a minimum age for these roles?

Yes, you would need to be at least 18 years old to work on our farm. Farms are generally not equipped to manage and support minors.

Q. Do I need to have experience for fruit picking work?

A. No – it is helpful if you have worked on a farm before but not imperative, full training will be given. It is important to understand that fruit picking is physically demanding work and involves bending and lifting loads of over 10 kg for up to 200 meters. It can also involve long hours and early starts, in sometimes difficult weather conditions.

Q. Where will I work?

A. The majority of our fields are within a 5-mile radius of our main site at Church Farm, Tunstead.

Q. How much will I be paid?

A. Fruit picking is paid on a piecework basis, the more you pick the more you earn. You will be expected to pick to targets to maintain your employment with us. All pay is in accordance with National Minimum Wage legislation.

**Q What about rest breaks?**

A. Designated polytunnel rest areas are available in all of our fields together with separate toilet and handwashing areas. In general, break times are 15 minutes in the morning, 30 minutes at lunchtime and 15 minutes in the afternoon. Separate designated smoking areas are also provided within the fields.

Q. Will transport be provided?

A. If demand is sufficient, we will make arrangements with local bus companies to pick up people from central locations and take them direct to the fields each day and then drop them back off again at the various locations at the end of the day. Whilst we are looking to subsidise the transport, there will be a charge which will be payable direct to the driver.

Q. Is parking available on site?

A. We do have limited parking available on site by request, however you should understand that this will be at field-based locations.

Q. Is accommodation available on site?

We do have a limited amount of shared dormitory style accommodation available on site. If you require accommodation please state this in your covering letter when applying.

Q. When will I be able to start work?

A. The peak demand for people to start fruit picking will be from the end of May and will continue until the middle of October.

Q. Will I need to bring anything with me when I start work?

A. Whilst all of our crops are under polytunnels, the fields themselves can become waterlogged and muddy at times so you should come to work prepared to pick with sensible footwear, wellington boots, rain coats, hats and sunscreen as appropriate. PPE will be provided where required.

Q. Will there be measures in place to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus?

A. As in all sectors of the economy, horticultural and agricultural businesses are putting in place appropriate measures to limit the spread of the virus, and to protect their workers.

Q. What will happen next?

A. We are receiving a number of applications and we will respond to these all as quickly as we can and contact you accordingly with more information. Thank you for your patience.

Q. Where can I find out more information?

A. Please click on the links below to view a couple of short induction videos from the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board on fruit picking and general health and safety advice with regards to working on soft fruit farms

<https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/champion-picker>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyGUgeL6rPo>