



## **CIRCULAR GROWING MEDIA FOR SEED STARTING INTERNSHIP**

### **The Problem**

Many farmers who start their crops from seed use growing media made from coconut coir and/or peat moss. These materials come from across the globe and are often produced in a way that is detrimental to natural ecosystems.

### **The Opportunity**

Could locally produced organic materials be used as a substitute for these common seed starting inputs? The Materials Research intern will conduct a feasibility study to explore how locally sourced materials function as growing media for indoor seed starting applications. The goal of this project is to help farmers determine whether a viable locally-sourced and/or repurposed alternative exists for commonly used seed starting media.

### **Basic Qualifications**

Intern must be 18 years of age or older and have the ability and desire to communicate with diverse audiences. This position will require an intern to be onsite at Plant Chicago's location (4459 S Marshfield Ave) for a minimum of 16 hours per week. Additional hours may be completed offsite if desired.

### **Desired Interest & Experience**

- Materials science
- Seed starting
- Indoor growing
- Soil science
- Scientific research
- Feasibility studies
- Report writing
- Interest in and/or experience working with small businesses

The Circular Growing Media intern will work with Plant Chicago's Circular Economy Project Specialist.

**To apply:** Please send a resume and cover letter to Liz Lyon, Small Business and Circular Economy Manager, at [elizabeth@plantchicago.org](mailto:elizabeth@plantchicago.org). Applications will be accepted until Thursday, April 30.