



HORTICULTURAL WORKER

JOB DESCRIPTION

If you enjoy working outdoors, you may want to explore opportunities in horticulture—the business of growing, harvesting, and selling flowers, plants, shrubs, and trees. You can find work in nurseries, botanical gardens, landscaping companies, and with the authorities who maintain green spaces in towns and cities.

SALARY

Horticultural worker ★★★★★

Horticulturist ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Majority of work in the production of high-value crops • Diverse industry dominated by small- to medium-sized companies



CAREER PATHS

Entry-level jobs in horticulture require only a basic school education. You may need a degree or vocational training to progress into managerial roles, or to find jobs in landscape design or horticultural science as a botanist, plant breeder, or soil scientist.

ASSISTANT You can begin your career as an assistant, learning on the job as you work within a team at a plant nursery or in gardens.



GRADUATE Some colleges offer courses in gardening and horticultural skills. Although not essential for entry into this career, an official qualification may help you in the job market.



HORTICULTURAL WORKER In this role, you carry out gardening duties, including plant care, and looking after playing fields or golf courses. You can choose to specialize in working with food crops or ornamental plants in nurseries or farms, or sell plants and advise on plant care.

RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **ARBORICULTURALIST** Cultivates, manages, and protects trees, hedges, and large shrubs. Arboriculturalists also provide information and advice on tree-related issues.
- ▶ **FLORIST** Cuts, arranges, and dries flowers to create pleasing visual displays for gifts, weddings, and funerals. Florists may work in a shop or from home.

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Gardening • Botany (plant science) • Plants and natural history • Biology • Chemistry • Health and fitness • Geography



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS A basic school education is required; a degree or higher is needed for more specialized roles.



LIFESTYLE The hours are generally regular, but shift work may be required at some nurseries where delicate plants are grown under intensive conditions.



LOCATION Working bases may be plant nurseries, greenhouse complexes, garden centers, public or private parks, or open spaces in towns or cities.



THE REALITIES The work can be repetitive and uncomfortable in poor weather. There is little rest, so physical stamina is necessary.



LANDSCAPE DESIGNER

Uses a detailed knowledge of plants and horticulture to plan, plant, and maintain gardens and landscapes surrounding homes and businesses.



BOTANIST Studies plant life and its interactions with soils, the atmosphere, and other living things. Botanists hold degrees, and may work on plant cultivation and growth, and document diverse and exotic plant species.



HORTICULTURAL TECHNICIAN

Specializes in technical areas of horticulture, such as installing irrigation systems, pest control in greenhouses, or laboratory work.



HORTICULTURIST Studies plant disease, genetics, and nutrition in order to improve the quality and productivity of commercial crops.



HORTICULTURAL THERAPIST

Uses practical gardening to promote well-being in people recovering from illness or suffering from long-term conditions.

SKILLS GUIDE



Physical strength and stamina for labor-intensive outdoor work, sometimes in bad weather.



Manual dexterity for planting seedlings and handling gardening equipment.



Organizational skills for planning tasks, including unloading supplies, digging soil, and pruning plants.



Problem-solving skills to examine and care for plants and flowers that need specific treatments to thrive.



Creativity and imagination to make town spaces, gardens, and nurseries look vibrant and appealing.