

Class Concept

Arborists are responsible for pruning and advising others on proper tree management to ensure the safety, health, and preservation of the tree canopy. Their duties include planting, fertilizing, inspecting, and treating trees and woody plants for insect and disease control, as well as addressing structural defects and decay.

These professionals remove excess branches from trees and clear away dead, damaged, diseased, unsafe, or overgrown trees and woody plants, especially around power lines and other structures. They prioritize safety by protecting vegetation, structures, and personnel from damage during pruning and climbing tasks.

Arborist positions utilize specialized skills and equipment including climbing and rigging techniques, heavy equipment, handsaws, hand pruners, shears, clippers, chainsaws, and power pruners. Positions may mix or apply pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, or insecticides through sprays, dust, vapors, soil incorporation, or chemical applications on trees, shrubs, lawns, or crops. Positions may train and inspect the work of ground workers but typically do not supervise staff.

Recruitment Requirements

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Intermediate knowledge of tree care, pruning techniques, and removal
- Intermediate knowledge of tree biology and identification
- Intermediate knowledge of tree health and inspection for disease, pest damage, structural defects and decay
- Intermediate knowledge of mixing and application of pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides or insecticides, including the application on trees, shrubs, lawns or crops
- Ability to utilize a wide variety of equipment and tools such as climbing ropes, harnesses, chainsaws, handsaws, hand pruners, shears, clippers, heavy equipment, and other arboricultural equipment safely
- Ability to work in a variety of weather conditions and outdoor environments
- Ability to lift heavy materials and perform manual tasks
- Ability to plan workflow, follow oral and written instructions, and maintain required records

Minimum Education and Experience

Associate degree in agriculture or natural resources, arboriculture, forestry, horticulture technology or a closely related curriculum from an appropriately accredited institution and one year of related experience; or a High School or General Educational Development (GED) diploma and three years of related experience in tree maintenance, landscaping, urban forestry, greenhouse and grounds maintenance; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.