

Nursery Worker I

DEFINITION

This is skilled arboriculture work involving the production and maintenance of nursery plant crops.

Working in a predominantly outdoor environment, the incumbent implements programs for propagation of a variety of plant material, nursery crop pest control, storage, irrigation and maintenance. Responsibilities also include identifying and resolving plant crop health problems, and assisting in the general maintenance of nursery crops, fields and building. Assignments are received through oral or written instructions, with the incumbent expected to use independent judgment in determining the most appropriate work methods. The incumbent will oversee the work of labourers who assist in the physical duties of this class, while the incumbent's work is reviewed through inspections and discussions with a supervisor.

TYPICAL DUTIES*

Assigns, oversees, and participates in the work of labourers and equipment operators engaged in digging, issuing, loading, and unloading nursery materials and stock.

Oversees and participates in the propagation of a variety of plant material through budding, grafting, seed collecting, germination, cuttings and other methods; plants transplants and cultivates nursery stock. This includes pruning, digging, irrigation, staking, tying and fertilizing.

Participates in and ensures that nursery weed and pest control activities are carried out. This includes equipment spraying with chemical weed killers, and hand spraying and hoeing in areas inaccessible to equipment. Mixes chemicals, performs weed control trials, and monitors new developments in weed control technology.

Ensures the proper storage, irrigation and maintenance of nursery crops held for planning projects. Requests contractors' services as required through either the Crew Leader or Team Leader.

Participates in the general maintenance of nursery fields, yards and buildings, including snow removal, and road and parking facility maintenance.

Prepares work records, reports, task cards, and equipment time sheets and maintains records.

Assists in selection interviews and in the training of subordinate staff.

Performs other related duties as required.

KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Considerable knowledge of arboricultural procedures, materials, tools, and equipment used in the production and maintenance of nursery plant crops.

Ability to understand plant crop needs and to identify associated problems.

Ability to assign and oversee the work of labourers.

Ability to express ideas orally and in writing.

Ability to adhere to strict schedules and to maintain accurate records.

Skill in the use of the materials, tools, and equipment applicable to the work.

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS**Job Level**

Completion of the twelfth school grade and two years of progressively responsible nursery experience, or an equivalent combination of training and experience. Completion of two appropriate courses in Nursery Operation from an accredited post-secondary institute either at the Certificate or Diploma level. Possession of a Class 5 Alberta motor vehicle operator's licence.

** This is a class specification and not an individualized job description. A class specification represents and defines the general character, scope of duties and responsibilities of all positions within a specific job classification. It is not intended to describe nor does it necessarily list the essential job functions for a specific position in a classification. Positions may perform some of the duties listed above but this does not necessarily qualify for placement into this classification.*