

GARDENER	4186
GARDENER (MENTOR WORKER)	4183

DEFINITION

Tends lawns, athletic fields, trees, shrubs, unplanted areas, and undeveloped sites.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Tends lawns and turf on athletic fields by mowing, reseeding, edging, fertilizing, spraying, renovating, and weeding.

Plants and tends trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, and ground covers, by cultivating, pruning and shaping, staking, fertilizing, spraying, mulching, weeding, transplanting, and removing hazardous or unnecessary growth.

Operates power equipment including but not limited to mowers, edgers, sprayers, hedge trimmers, weed trimmers, chain saws, back blowers, utility tractors, rototillers, and renovators.

Adjusts and performs minor maintenance on tools and power equipment.

Safely mixes and applies pesticides.

Checks safety hazards in planted areas of a school campus; makes reports or appropriate repairs.

Maintains, adjusts, and makes minor repairs on lawn sprinkler systems.

Keeps drains and flow lines in planted areas free from debris.

Assists in laying out and marking athletic and recreation fields.

Applies fertilizers and soil amendments.

Sets out traps for pests.

Maintains athletic facilities, such as: long jump pits, runways, running tracks, and shot put areas.

May advise and train custodial personnel in proper watering procedures, operation and setting of automatic sprinkler controllers, and maintenance and adjustment of lawn sprinkler systems.

May maintain or replace plants in various containers.

May provide training and work direction to Assistant Gardeners.

May maintain weed control of elementary agriculture plots and assist in preparation for educational programs.

May drive a van, truck, or other vehicle to transport gardening equipment, tools, and supplies.

Performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS AMONG RELATED CLASSES

A Gardener performs maintenance gardening for a group of schools or office buildings, and works under the general supervision of a Principal Gardener, Tractor Mower Operator, or Power Spray Operator. A Gardener (Mentor Worker) performs the same functions but also introduces students to the work place by providing on-the-job instruction in the duties of the class and demonstrating and teaching job knowledges and skills.

A Principal Gardener supervises lower-level gardening personnel and is responsible for the gardening maintenance at schools and offices.

A Building and Grounds Worker maintains buildings and grounds in a clean, sanitary, and safe condition.

An Assistant Gardener assists higher-level gardening personnel by performing general grounds maintenance duties.

SUPERVISION

General supervision usually is received from a Principal Gardener, Plant Manager, or Principal. No supervision is exercised; work direction may be given to Assistant Gardeners and Building and Grounds Workers.

CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Plant materials such as ground covers, turf areas, weeds, trees, and shrubs
Methods, materials, tools and power equipment used in the care of lawns, turf, trees, shrubs, hedges, ground cover, and flowers grown in Southern California

Ability to:

Safely operate and make minor repairs to power equipment
Plant and prune trees, shrubs, hedges, ground cover, and flowers
Safely mix and apply pesticides in accordance with written directions and District procedures
Set out traps
Deal effectively with District personnel, students, and the public

Special Physical Requirements:

Safely lift and move tools, equipment, and materials related to the work
Ability to kneel and squat for extended periods of time
Freedom from allergies caused by common plants which might interfere with work assignments

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

Graduation from high school or evidence of equivalent educational proficiency is desirable. Successful completion of a two-year course in horticulture, agriculture, or related subjects in a high school, college, adult, or vocational school may be substituted for six months of the required experience.

Experience:

One year of paid experience in general maintenance gardening including care of lawns, trees, shrubs, hedges, ground covers, and flowers.

Special:

A valid California Driver License.
Use of an automobile.