

CLASS TITLE: GARDENER III

PURPOSE OF THE CLASSIFICATION: Under general supervision performs skilled gardening and technical work and acts as a working lead person over a small crew involved in the care and maintenance/propagation of plants, shrubs, grasses, and trees in an indoor/outdoor environment or facility; and performs other related assigned duties.

ESSENTIAL TASKS:

- Performs general and specific plant maintenance to permanent and seasonal ornamental plant displays, including watering, weeding, planting, fertilizing, mulching, pruning, trimming, turf grass establishment, and landscape construction
- May supervise and participate in the work of a crew in the care, propagation and cultivation of ornamental plants, grasses, shrubs, trees, bulbs, aquatic plants and native plants inside greenhouses and in outdoor production facilities to meet the Department's beautification goals
- Determines maintenance schedules and assigns, instructs, leads, and reviews the work of a crew of employees
- Inspects for, identifies, and makes technical decisions in the determination of the appropriate timing and control methods of pests, diseases, physical environment, and cultural practices to prevent problems/enhance production on interior and exterior ornamental plantings
- Calibrates spray equipment, mixes and applies pesticides (including restricted use types), fertilizers, and chemicals to seasonal and permanent ornamental plant displays, turf grasses, aquatic environments, and inside a greenhouse environment, and/or instructs others in their use and application
- Estimates materials, equipment, tools, and supply requirements for maintenance schedules and projects
- Maintains a variety of record and log use of materials and supplies, orders and issues materials and supplies, and writes various reports
- Researches and evaluates new tools and equipment, horticultural practices and methods, pesticides, fertilizers, water quality, and evaluates greenhouses/park physical environments as related to responsibilities
- Operates and maintains a variety of light and heavy equipment (including automotive), tools, machinery, and specialized facility systems relating to greenhouses and/or tree nurseries
- Maintains and performs minor repairs to irrigation systems, fountains, pools, and small lakes
- Performs special event setups
- Conducts routine safety inspections of the grounds, gardens, and park areas
- Trains other personnel in the care and propagation of ornamental plants and horticultural techniques
- May direct and plan production and care of plants within a greenhouse and/or tree nursery operation

Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential tasks.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Training and Experience: Graduation from an accredited college or university with an associate's degree in horticulture, arboriculture, botany, or a closely related field; and two (2) years experience in ornamental gardening work, including supervisory experience in greenhouse, nursery, or landscaping work; or possession of a two (2) year vocational technical certificate in horticulture/landscape and floral design, and two (2) years experience in ornamental gardening work, including supervisory experience in greenhouse, nursery, or landscaping work; or an equivalent combination of training and experience per Personnel Policies and Procedures, Section 128.

Knowledge, Abilities, and Skills: Good knowledge of landscaping principles and practices; good knowledge of the common varieties of turf, plants and trees used in landscape work and the methods of eradicating and preventing associated diseases and pests; good knowledge of the methods of seeding, propagating, cultivating, fertilizing, pruning, spraying, and otherwise caring for plants and trees in external landscapes or greenhouse/nursery operations; and good knowledge of the safety requirements of the work performed. Ability to plan, lead, and provide technical direction to other employees; ability to write

clearly and legibly; ability to calculate rates of chemical application and calibrate equipment; and the ability to understand and influence the behavior of others within the organization, customers, or the public in order to achieve job objectives and cause action or understanding.

Physical Requirements: Physical requirements include frequent walking and standing; frequent lifting up to 60 pounds; occasional carrying up to 50 pounds; frequent bending, kneeling, handling, reaching, balancing, crawling, feeling, climbing, smelling, twisting, and talking; and vision, speech and hearing sufficient to perform the essential tasks.

Licenses and Certificates: Possession of a valid Class "B" Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with some positions requiring either a "X" and/or "H" endorsements within 90 days of date of hire; possession of an Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture Certified Applicator's Permit in the Ornamental and Turf Category; and some positions may require a permit in the Right of Way and/or Aquatics categories.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT: Working environment is primarily outdoors and occasionally indoors, and in inclement weather. May be exposed to the following: hazardous materials, flammable liquids, traffic, excessive dust, weather/extreme temperatures, rough terrains, cutting/chipping/grinding, damp/wet surfaces, snow/ice covered surfaces, insect bites, poisonous plants, snake bites, overhead power lines, toxic fumes/vapors/odors, confined space, high noises, and refuse/garbage/litter/animal waste.

Class Code: 7533

EEO Code: N-07

Pay Grade: LT-17

Group: Labor and Trades

Series: Unskilled and Semiskilled Labor

Effective date: February 13, 1997