

HORTICULTURAL AIDE

Code No.: 4-15-016
COMPETITIVE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is a para-professional horticultural position involving planting, propagation, cultivation and maintenance of trees, shrubs, and ornamental plants. Work is performed under general supervision of a higher-level staff member. General supervision may be exercised over subordinate staff. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES (All need not be performed in a given position. Other related activities may be performed although not listed):

Conducts planting, propagation and cultivation of trees, shrubs, and ornamental plants;

Performs maintenance of planting and horticulture display areas, including spraying, pruning, weeding and fertilizing of trees, shrubs and ornamental plants;

Performs diagnostics of plant diseases, damage and cultural deficiency;

Carries out programs to prevent and control plant disease, insect damage and cultural deficiency;

Assists in landscape concept and development;

Assists in greenhouse and nursery operation such as checking the temperature, feeding and watering plants, transplanting, spraying, and pruning trees and shrubs;

Conducts tours of the arboretum, greenhouse, herbarium and related areas;

Answers inquiries and responds to requests for information and instructions on the care of plants, trees, or shrubs;

Requisitions supplies and materials when needed.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL

CHARACTERISTICS: Thorough knowledge of soils, fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides; thorough knowledge of landscaping methods and practices; thorough knowledge of plant disease prevention and control; good knowledge of the methods of planting and care of trees, shrubs, and ornamental plants; good knowledge of watering, fertilizing, pruning, and trimming requirements of trees, shrubs and ornamental plants; ability to diagnose diseases, insect injury and cultural deficiency in trees, shrubs, and ornamental plants; ability to effectively communicate with the public; ability to follow oral and written directions; good judgment; health commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency

diploma plus; EITHER:

- (A) Four (4) years of paid full time or its part time equivalent experience in Horticulture, Landscaping, Floriculture or closely related field; OR
- (B) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with an Associate's degree with major course work in Horticulture, Floriculture, Botany, Plant Pathology, or Landscape Design plus two (2) years of experience as defined in (A); OR,
- (C) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Horticulture, Floriculture, Botany, Plant Pathology, or Landscape Design; OR,
- (D) Any equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (A) and (C).

NOTE: Where the minimum educational requirement is not met, additional work experience as defined above may be substituted on a year-for-year basis. A degree in unrelated fields cannot be substituted for work experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of a valid Chemical Applicator's license issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is required by the completion of the probationary period.

Depending upon assignment, candidates for employment in Monroe County government must pass a pre-employment drug test.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOCES

Per Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, to be employed in a position designated by a school district or BOCES as involving direct contact with students, a clearance for employment from the State Education Department is required.

Reviewed: 11/12/86

REVISED: February 19, 1987

REVISED: June 8, 2000