

# PLANT HEALTH CARE (IPM) TECHNICIAN RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL TREE CARE

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Plant health care technicians handle most of the pest management operations for the company. This typically includes spray, applications, and fertilization.

## TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Many PHC technicians start their career as groundworkers. It is not unusual for college students to work summers as PHC technicians while pursuing a degree in arboriculture, horticulture, or forestry.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Employers will seek out employees that are self motivated. Workers that wish to advance to higher ranks will be expected to obtain the appropriate pesticide application licenses.



## EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- General work site safety and hazard recognition
- Reading and understanding work orders
- Communication skills
- Emergency procedures
- Proper equipment use and maintenance
- Application regulations
- Chemical handling
- Tree and shrub identification
- Tree biology
- Diagnostic training

## EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ISA: *Arborists' Certification Study Guide*
- NAA Video: *Back Injury Prevention*
- ANSI Z133.1 Safety Standards
- ANSI A300 Fertilization
- NAA Video: *Hydraulic Spray Equipment Part 1*
- NAA Video: *Hydraulic Sprayer Calibration Part 2*
- NAA Video: *Proper Pesticide Application Part 3*
- ISA: *Plant Health Care for Woody Ornamentals*
- NAA Tree Care Specialist program

## CERTIFICATIONS/LICENSES

Commercial Drivers License may be required  
ISA Arborist Certification recommended  
State Pesticide Applicators License required

## TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Plant health care monitor; tree care salesperson