

EXTENSION AGENT/SPECIALIST

JOB DESCRIPTION

Extension agents and specialists in arboriculture & horticulture at universities across the United States are responsible for educating arborists, landscapers, and homeowners to help them manage landscapes and care for trees using the most up-to-date information available.

TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Extension agents or specialists can be entry-level positions after completion of M.S. and/or Ph.D. studies. However, most extension agents have acquired considerable practical and educational experience. Some come from industry or have had their own businesses.



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A master's degree is generally required with some work experience. Ph.D.'s are welcome if they have practical experience

EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- Tree identification
- Pest identification and control
- Hazard tree recognition and assessment skills
- Protection of trees on construction sites
- Computer skills using spreadsheets, word processing, and data bases
- Pruning principals and techniques
- Public communication skills
- Strong organizational skills
- ANSI A300 Standards
- Transplanting of trees
- Diagnostic skills

EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ANSI A300 Standards
- Best Management Practices series
- *Arboriculture* by Harris, et al
- *ISA: A Photographic Guide to the Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas*
- *ISA: Trees and Development*
- *ISA: Arboriculture and the Law*
- *ISA/ASCA: Guide to Report Writing*
- *ISA: Arborists' Certification Study Guide*
- *Diseases of Trees and Shrubs*
- *Insects That Feed on Trees and Shrubs*
- *Journal of Arboriculture*

CERTIFICATIONS/LICENSES

A certified arborist and pesticide applicators license is helpful but usually not required. Other credentials (certification in landscape maintenance or architecture) can be helpful, but are not required.

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Many extension agents become full-time instructors, educators, researchers, or college administrators. They can also become consultants and may devote time to speaking at seminars.