



Career Paths in Arboriculture

Arboretum | Parks | Botanical Garden Arborist

JOB DESCRIPTION

ARBORETA, BOTANICAL gardens, parks, golf courses, and landscape companies' arborists are some of the non-typical positions in the arboriculture career path. Job responsibilities may vary more than for arborists in more traditional roles. Arboricultural tasks include plant health care, grounds-keeping, public education, climbing, etc. Jobs in this area involve a combination of skills in arboriculture, ranging from field work to tree management decisions.

TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Usually these professionals have some prior arboricultural experience, often as a climber in the commercial sector. Arborists employed in this capacity often have a degree or some college background and are usually ISA Certified Arborists.



USDI National Park Service, Bugwood.org

EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- ✓ Cabling and bracing
- ✓ Chain saw use and safety
- ✓ Chipper use and safety
- ✓ Communication skills
- ✓ Emergency procedures
- ✓ Entomology and plant pathology
- ✓ General work site safety
- ✓ Hazard recognition
- ✓ Lightning protection
- ✓ Plant selection
- ✓ Proper equipment use and maintenance
- ✓ Proper planting procedures
- ✓ Pruning principles and techniques
- ✓ Tree and shrub identification

EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ✓ *An Illustrated Guide to Pruning* (Gilman)
- ✓ *ANSI A300 Standards for Tree Care Operations* (or applicable national standards)
- ✓ *ANSI Z133 Safety Standard for Arboricultural Operations* (or applicable national standard)
- ✓ *Arborists' Certification Study Guide* (ISA)
- ✓ *Arborists' Knots for Climbing and Rigging – DVD and Workbook* (ISA)
- ✓ *ArborMaster® Training Video Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Best Management Practices Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Diseases of Trees and Shrubs* (Sinclair and Lyon)
- ✓ *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Dirr)
- ✓ *Plant Health Care for Woody Ornamentals* (Lloyd)
- ✓ *The Practical Science of Planting Trees* (Watson and Himelick)
- ✓ *Tree Risk Assessment Manual* (ISA)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

Workers must be in good physical condition if climbing is required. Educational levels and backgrounds vary greatly depending on the expectations of the employer and the scope of responsibility, and can range from a high school diploma to a four-year degree.

CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

ISA Certified Arborist® credential is recommended. State Pesticide Applicator License is required if pest control is part of the job. Commercial Driver's License is recommended.

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Workers may move up to management positions or shift to other jobs in the arboriculture field.