

Plant Health Care (PHC) Technician Residential | Commercial Tree Care

JOB DESCRIPTION

PLANT HEALTH CARE TECHNICIANS handle most of the integrated pest management (IPM) 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 during summers as PHC technicians while pursuing a degree in arboriculture, horticulture, or forestry.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

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



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EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

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

EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ✓ *Abiotic Disorders of Landscape Plants: A Diagnostic Guide* (Costello et al.)
- ✓ *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)
- ✓ *Best Management Practice Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Diseases of Trees and Shrubs* (Sinclair and Lyon)
- ✓ *Insects That Feed on Trees and Shrubs* (Johnson and Lyon)
- ✓ *Introduction to Arboriculture Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Managing Insects and Mites on Woody Plants: An IPM Approach* (Davidson and Raupp)
- ✓ *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Dirr)
- ✓ *Plant Health Care for Woody Ornamentals* (Lloyd)
- ✓ *Tree Risk Assessment Manual* (ISA)
- ✓ *Tropical Gardeners' Guide to Healthy Plants* (Sanderson et al.)

CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

ISA Certified Arborist® credential and Commercial Driver's License are recommended. State Pesticide Applicator License is required.

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Plant health care technicians may move up to the monitor position. As experience increases, they can also move up to the tree care salesperson position in the company.