

JOB DESCRIPTION

EXTENSION AGENTS AND SPECIALISTS in arboriculture and 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.

EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

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

CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

ISA Certified Arborist® credential is recommended. State Pesticide Applicator License is helpful, but usually not required. Other credentials (certification in landscape maintenance or architecture) can also 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.



John Andrew Wagner, ISA

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

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

EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ✓ *A Consultant Guide to Writing Effective Reports* (ASCA)
- ✓ *ANSI A300 Standards for Tree Care Operations* (or applicable national standards)
- ✓ *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry* (ISA journal)
- ✓ *Arboriculture and the Law* (Merullo and Valentine)
- ✓ *Arboriculture: Integrated Management of Landscape Trees, Shrubs, and Vines* (Harris et al.)
- ✓ *Arborists' Certification Study Guide* (ISA)
- ✓ *Best Management Practices Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Diseases of Trees and Shrubs* (Sinclair and Lyon)
- ✓ *The Practical Science of Planting Trees* (Watson and Himelick)
- ✓ *Tree Risk Assessment Manual* (ISA)
- ✓ *Trees and Development* (Matheny and Clark)