



PLANT
SCIENCE

Horticulturalist

Horticulturalists oversee research programs for a variety of ornamental and vegetative crops. As a horticulturalist, the goal of increasing yield, improving color, size and in some cases, taste of the plant are important. Crops studied by horticulturalists include nuts, fruits, vegetables, flowers, bushes, and trees.



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Inspiring Minds to Grow

Funded by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

career profile

Name: Alex Williams
Job Title: Horticulturist

Employer: Indianapolis Park District

Education: BS, Purdue University: West Lafayette, Indiana

 I am a horticulturist for the Indianapolis Park District. I have had an interest in plants since I was a child. However, it wasn't until a school counselor told me that I could study horticulture that I decided to pursue a career related to plants.

 The position I hold allows me to work with plants and many great people. I participate in the planning, planting, and care of ornamental and vegetative crops. In doing so, I must stay within a budget. I see that the park district conservatory is managed for seasonal shows. I schedule crops for indoor and outdoor displays in the production greenhouse. Among my responsibilities are the selection of plant varieties and calculation of the number of plants

to be grown. I supervise technicians who propagate, water, and fertilize crops. I assist landscape architects with park planning by sharing my knowledge of woody landscape plants. I give instruction to crews that conduct maintenance work such as pruning, mowing, and pest management.

 One of the most rewarding parts of my job is the interaction with the public. I have been involved in a community vegetable gardening program. This program has gotten people involved in growing their own vegetables. I have also conducted a variety of classes for homeowners on such topics as how to prune trees and shrubs and lawn care. I enjoy this public interaction and feel that I am helping others gain a better appreciation for horticulture.



Horticulturist

overview



A **horticulturist** applies the science and art of growing plants to various situations.

suggested high school courses



[horticulture science](#), biology, plant science, chemistry, mathematics, and computer science

experience needed



Plan and implement a horticulture related Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program. Seek an internship while in school to gain practical experience.

degree(s) required



An associate's degree with six months to one year related experience and/or training. A bachelor's degree may be preferred. Certifications such as a Pesticide Applicator's License are recommended.

potential employers



arboreta, botanic gardens, municipalities, universities and colleges

salary range



\$53,800 to \$57,984

employment outlook and trends



An **average** growth of employment opportunities for horticulturists is predicted due to demand for qualified candidates to replace those who retire, die, and change jobs or occupations.

professional organizations



American Horticultural Society www.ahs.org/
American Nursery and Landscape Association www.anla.org/



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