

## GARDENER

### DEFINITION

Provides general gardening care and grounds maintenance involving trees, lawns, turf, shrubs, hedges, ground cover, flowers, and athletic fields.

### TYPICAL DUTIES

- Cares for lawns and turf on athletic fields by watering, mowing, edging, raking, fertilizing, re-seeding, spraying, and weeding.
- Plants and cares for trees, shrubs, hedges, flowers, and ground cover by cultivating, pruning and shaping, trimming, staking, fertilizing, spraying, watering, weeding, transplanting, and removing hazardous or unnecessary growth.
- Operates power gardening equipment such as mowers, edgers, sprayers, trimmers, blowers, chain saws, tractors, and cultivators.
- Adjusts and performs minor maintenance on power gardening equipment and tools.
- Mixes and applies insecticides in accordance with safety requirements.
- Applies fertilizers and soil amendments.
- Sets out traps for pests.
- Checks safety hazards in gardening areas and takes appropriate actions.
- Maintains and adjusts all types of lawn sprinkler systems.
- Keeps drains and flow lines free from debris.
- Composts materials.
- May furnish requested plants and insects to instructors.
- May assist the athletic department in laying out and marking athletic and recreation fields.
- May mix and apply poisons, dusts, and fungicides.
- May perform special floral decorating duties for special college events.
- May maintain and replace planter boxes.
- May provide work direction and training to semi-skilled gardening staff and student employees.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

### DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

A **Gardener** provides general gardening care and grounds maintenance involving trees, lawns, turf, shrubs, hedges, ground cover, flowers, and athletic fields.

A **Gardening Supervisor** supervises and participates in the gardening care and the grounds maintenance of a college site, including the care and upkeep of a variety of athletic facilities.

A **Lead Gardener** acts as a lead and participates in the work of a gardening crew engaged in providing general gardening care and grounds maintenance at a college site, including the care and upkeep of a variety of athletic facilities. Lead responsibilities are typically exercised over a group of at least three employees and include guidance and instruction on techniques, methods, and procedures for accomplishing assigned tasks and solving problems.

A **Groundskeeper** performs semiskilled tasks and general labor related to garden and grounds maintenance at a college campus.

## SUPERVISION

Immediate supervision is received from supervisory gardening staff or facilities management staff. May provide work direction to semi-skilled gardening staff, student employees, and persons performing community service work.

## CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

### Knowledge of:

Plants adapted to the Southern California climate

Methods, materials, equipment and tools used in the care of trees, lawns, turf, shrubs, hedges, ground cover, and flowers grown in Southern California

Soil, fertilizer, and moisture requirements of Southern California plant life

Appropriate uses of pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides

Protection and safety requirements needed when working with power equipment and/or handling hazardous or toxic materials

### Skill in:

Proper use of gardening hand tools

The safe operation and use of power gardening equipment and other tools

Pruning and shaping trees, shrubs, and other plants

### Ability to:

Plant and maintain healthy growth of trees, lawns, turf, shrubs, hedges, ground cover, and other plants

Mix sprays and insecticides in accordance with simple written directions and safety requirements

Apply fertilizers and soil amendments in proper proportions and sequence

Make minor repairs and adjustments to power gardening equipment and tools

Make minor repairs and adjustments to sprinkler systems

Safely lift and move heavy gardening materials

Set out traps

Work effectively and harmoniously with college staff and students

Learn the characteristics of new equipment in the field of gardening and grounds maintenance and update skills to adapt to changing technology

## ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

### Education and Experience:

- A. Graduation from high school or its equivalent AND one year of full-time paid experience in general gardening work including care of trees, lawns, shrubs, hedges, and flowers.

**OR**

- B. Successful completion of a two-year program in horticulture or related subjects from a community college, adult, vocational, or high school.

### Special:

A valid California class "C" driver's license.  
Access to an automobile.

### Physical Requirement:

Ability to lift and move items weighing up to 50 pounds