

Facilities Job Function

Gardener III

Grade 52

Summary

Reports to Department Director and works independently or works under the direction of a crew leader. Performs moderately complex horticultural duties and coordinates procedures related to all aspects of the daily care and landscape maintenance, greenhouse, and pesticide management. This is a critical position, which may require the employee to work during emergencies.

Typical Duties

1. Performs moderately complex plant care and garden maintenance, relying on knowledge of horticulture and plant care techniques planting, pruning, mowing, blowing, edging, aerating, fertilizer application, pest control techniques, tool and equipment care, cleaning and care of pools and fountains, sculpture, and benches.
2. Operates machinery and equipment used in the performance of gardening duties.
3. Prepares gardens for daily public visiting hours and assist in essential services including removal of snow and ice, leaves and other debris from walkways and steps, storm damage clean-up and other emergency duties.
4. Assists with special projects as needed. Performs related duties as required.
5. Works independently and with supervision and as a member of a team.
6. May answer questions for garden visitors.
7. Ability to work outside in various weather conditions; endurance to walk, stand, kneel, bend, stoop, and climb; strength to push, pull, and lift up to 50 lbs.
8. Depending on the primary function of departmental assignment, may coordinate one or more of the following specific areas such as:

Greenhouse

Coordinate all greenhouse operations. This includes crop propagation protocols, growing and watering schedules, pesticide spraying schedules, and general greenhouse maintenance. Plays a lead role in monitoring and regulating greenhouse environment for propagation, production, and appropriate ongoing care of plants. May contribute to the planning and budgeting process, purchasing/ recommending purchases of equipment and supplies. Coordinates with other departments to provide plant materials for special events; may include designing, creating or recommending the purchase of specific plant materials. Attends staff meetings.

Integrated Pest Management

Performs, and directs other employees in performing, a regimen of Integrated

Pest Management to control weeds, plant diseases, and insect, nematode and vertebrate infestations, including following all label and Material Safety Data Sheet instructions, adhering to all District of Columbia Municipal Regulations and EPA Worker Protection Standards for the safe application of pesticides.

Maintains an electronic database of all pesticide applications and a list of all pesticides on hand. Selects appropriate pest resistant plant material, and proper cultural practices to minimize pest populations. Coordinates the maintenance of all pesticide equipment, tools and machinery. Must obtain and maintain any required licenses required by municipal, state and federal regulations.

Horticulture

Assist senior staff in implementation of garden installations. May coordinate with other departments to research, design and plant unique garden exhibits. Performs installation work independently or as part of a team. May direct other employees in following horticultural plans developed. May support educational outreach and training to garden visitors and volunteers. Maintains gardens (for example: vegetable garden, ornamental gardens, etc.) including fertilization and treatment programs, pruning, and amendments to achieve desired affects. Horticultural degree strongly preferred. Experience in grounds' maintenance preferred.

Typical Requirements

Skills and Experience: 3-5 years of professional gardening experience required. Gardening and horticultural training required and may substitute for gardening experience. Proven ability to operate all necessary equipment. Basic knowledge of equipment repair. Strong leadership and interpersonal skills. Ability to work effectively in a team environment. May be required to work weekends.

Note: This is a model job description reflecting a sample of typical duties. It is intended to suggest a general level of skill and complexity and as such is not a substitute for the local, specific descriptions for individual jobs.