

SENIOR GARDENER

DEFINITION

Supervises a gardening crew and participates in the gardening maintenance of a group of schools and office sites.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Supervises and participates in the performance of the following duties: mows, edges, weeds, rakes, reseeds, and fertilizes lawns; trims, prunes, replants, stakes, cultivates, and fertilizes shrubs, trees, and ground cover; sprays lawns, ground cover, trees, and shrubs to control diseases and pests; and controls weeds by spray or mechanical means.

Operates and supervises the operation of power equipment, such as mowers, cultivators, tractors, and sprayers.

Performs landscaping and designing, planning, irrigation, law renovation, stabilization of slopes, and the cleaning of grounds.

Performs minor repair and cleaning of power mowers and other power equipment, gardening tools, sprinkler heads, and hoses.

Eliminates hazards in gardening areas and removes debris from drains and flow lines.

Advises custodial personnel of proper watering procedures and in the operations of automatic and manual sprinkler systems.

Prepares cost and supply estimates and scopes for special landscape projects.

May maintain athletic turfs, running tracks, jumping pits, and runways.

May write instructions and reports covering work descriptions and related information.

Performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS AMONG RELATED CLASSES

A Senior Gardener supervises a crew of Gardeners and Assistant Gardeners and participates in grounds maintenance of a group of schools and office sites.

A Principal Gardener supervises Senior Gardeners and lower-level gardening personnel and is responsible for the gardening maintenance at District schools and sites in an Operations Area.

A Gardener performs maintenance gardening for a group of schools or office buildings, and works under the general supervision of a Senior Gardener, or Tractor Mower Operator.

SUPERVISION

General supervision is received from a Principal Gardener. General supervision is exercised over Gardeners and Assistant Gardeners.

CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Methods of grounds maintenance and gardening, such as landscaping and design, planting, pruning, irrigation, and weed control
- Fire, health, safety, District policies and procedures, and other laws and regulations that may affect students, gardening employees, and other District personnel and property
- Plants adaptable to the climate of Los Angeles and vicinity
- Seasonal timing of gardening operations
- Various grasses commonly used
- Plant, soil, and water relationships
- Safety practices related to power equipment, pest and weed control materials, and fertilizers

Ability to:

- Supervise effectively
- Cultivate, irrigate, fertilize, water, and grow plants, trees, shrubs, and lawns
- Operate and make minor repairs to power equipment and all types of sprinkler systems
- Use appropriate types of soils, fertilizer, and pest control materials in proper proportions and sequence
- Identify and care for plants, trees, shrubs, and grass
- Estimate costs of plant materials and labor
- Write clear and concise instructions and reports
- Deal effectively with District personnel, students, and the public

Special Physical Requirements:

- Safely lift and move tools, equipment, and other materials related to the work
- Freedom from allergies caused by common plants, shrubs, and trees which might interfere with work assignments

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

Graduation from high school or evidence of equivalent educational proficiency, preferably supplemented by courses in botany, horticulture, plant propagation, and plant identification.

Experience:

Two years of paid experience in general gardening work. Successful completion of a two-year course in horticulture, agriculture, or related subjects in a high school, college, adult, or vocational school may be substituted for six months of the required experience.

Special:

- A valid California Driver License.
- Use of an automobile.

This class description is not a complete statement of essential functions, responsibilities, or requirements. Requirements are representative of the minimum level of knowledge, skill, and/or abilities. Management retains the discretion to add or change typical duties of a position at any time.

Revised
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