

# Classification and Qualification STANDARDS

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## Gardener

*Class Code: 0743*

*Date Revised: 04-01-2005*

*FLSA: Non-Exempt*

*Classification Standard Reformatted: 03-01-2014*

### OVERVIEW:

Under general supervision, the Gardener performs skilled horticultural work in either a greenhouse, lathhouse, nursery setting or in specialized planting areas and ornamental gardens on a campus. The Gardener performs specialized plant propagation duties in a nursery setting or performs specialized gardening functions in the planning and cultivating of special planting areas for a major portion of time.

Groundsworkers or those in other grounds classifications may perform similar functions on an occasional basis and may assist the Gardener in the performance of these specialized duties; however, they are not required to possess the level of skills, knowledge and abilities required to perform the full range of duties to propagate plants, shrubs, flowers, trees, and lawns or to maintain and operate a nursery.

### TYPICAL ACTIVITIES:

The duties listed below are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to this classification.

Gardeners typically perform work involving some or all of the following duties: oversee nursery operations including those in greenhouses and lathhouses; raise plants and flowers from seeds, bulbs, and cuttings; transplant nursery stock; sterilize and mix soils; pot and report plants; select proper irrigation and feeding schedules; train nursery stock by pruning, tying and root pruning; repair damaged trees and shrubs; prune and stake plants and trees; ball, burlap, and cure trees and shrubs; spray plants for disease and insect control; maintain appropriate environmental conditions in greenhouses; maintain nursery and nursery tools in good working order; maintain and care for large plant shipments prior to their being planted on campus; make recommendations for the development of special planting areas on campuses; and select plants and flowers for ornamental gardens.

### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

#### ***Knowledge:***

Thorough knowledge of the names, characteristics, and use of trees, shrubs, and flowers; proper use and maintenance of gardening tools and equipment, flower and plant propagation techniques, pruning techniques, characteristics of fertilizers, soil conditioners, and soils, and the effects of environment on plant life.

#### ***Abilities:***

Ability to care for and maintain plants in all stages of growth; develop and execute a program of plant propagation and display; mix soils and fertilizers for plantings; read and write at a level appropriate to the duties of the position; and follow oral and written instructions.

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***Experience:***

Two years of experience in performing work in the cultivation and care of nursery or ornamental plants including planting of seeds and cuttings, watering, fertilizing, transplanting, and pruning.