

# Classification and Qualification STANDARDS

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## Gardening Specialist

*Class Code: 0745*

*Date Revised: 04-01-2005*

*FLSA: Non-Exempt*

*Classification Standard Reformatted: 03-01-2014*

### **OVERVIEW:**

Under general supervision, the Gardening Specialist performs a wide variety of gardening work in an assigned area of a campus.

The Gardening Specialist performs a combination of specialized work in an assigned area which encompasses sprinkler repair work, horticultural spray work, and plant propagation, gardening or nursery work which requires the same level of skills, knowledge and abilities that are required of specialists in each of these areas. The specialized work must be performed at least 50% of the time under the general supervision of someone above the Lead Groundworker, and independently of any specialists working in the assigned area.

### **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.

Gardening Specialists typically perform work involving some or all of the following duties: plant, cultivate, fertilize, water and spray ornamental plants, shrubs, hedges, trees, lawns and flowers; prepare and treat soils for planting; maintain sprinklers, tools and equipment in proper condition and repair; operate and perform maintenance on small power-operated power mowers, small riding mowers, and other gardening power equipment; may from time-to-time provide lead work direction to students, Groundworkers or individuals in other grounds classifications; may drive automotive equipment in the performance of assigned duties.

In addition, for at least 50% of their work time, Gardening Specialists perform the following activities: horticultural spray and pest eradication work; maintenance, repair and modification of irrigation systems; planning, development and maintenance of special planting areas or ornamental gardens; on a regularly schedule basis, apply chemicals for the eradication of fungi, pests, insects and weeds to plants, trees, shrubs, lawns, embankments, roads, parking lots, unimproved acreage and buildings; select appropriate times to apply the chemicals, taking into consideration weather conditions and frequency of usage; determine where to place poisons and traps; safely store chemicals and supplies used in spraying programs; repair broken sprinkler lines, sprinkler heads, valves and related equipment; clear blockages from valves and pipes; inspect, service, and maintain automatic sprinkler control devices; perform minor repairs on all sprinkler control devices; establish and maintain sprinkler system preventive maintenance programs; perform minor installation and modification of sprinkler systems; review landscaped areas and coordinate the installation of new sprinkler systems and modification of existing sprinkler systems taking into consideration the vegetation, soil conditions, and evaporation and water retention factors; work closely with contractors installing sprinkler systems around new structures to assure proper irrigating capabilities of the system; make recommendations for the planning and development of special planting areas within their assigned area; select plants and flowers for ornamental gardens; and provide advice and assistance to others regarding proper care of flowers and ornamental plants, pruning, and other technical skills.

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## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

### ***Knowledge:***

Thorough knowledge of the methods, plants, tools and equipment used in planting, cultivating and caring for flowers, shrubs, lawns and trees. General knowledge of the composition and structure of soil, Ph factors of soils, compatibility and incompatibility factors between soil and plants, difference between plant mixes, and erosion control.

### ***Abilities:***

Ability to identify, diagnose and treat plant disease, and correct plant nutrient deficiencies; prepare freehand sketches and make recommendations for possible improvements in landscaping within the assigned area; read and write at a level appropriate to the duties of the position; and follow oral and written instructions.

### ***Experience:***

Two years of experience in the care and maintenance of landscaped areas or general grounds, one year of which shall have been in either the maintenance, repair or modification of irrigation systems, specialized pest and/or spray control work, or cultivation and care of nursery plants.

### ***License:***

Possession of the appropriate California Department of Pesticide Regulation license to perform pest control work. Some positions may require possession of a valid California driver's license.