

GARDENER/GROUNDSKEEPER SPECIALIST

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, develops, maintains and prepares athletic fields for instruction and team use; performs skilled gardening and landscape and grounds maintenance duties in an assigned area of the campus; performs related duties as required or assigned.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This specialist class performs the full range of gardening and groundskeeping duties; however, the primary responsibility of the work is to develop, maintain, renovate and prepare athletic fields for class and team use. Successful performance of the work not only requires technical skill and experience, but the ability to work with and coordinate the needs of coaches, faculty and students while maintaining fields in a usable condition. This class is distinguished from Grounds Maintenance Coordinator in that the latter is the working lead level in this class series, responsible for planning, assigning, reviewing and evaluating campus-wide grounds maintenance functions and activities.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES (Illustrative Only)

- Confers with faculty, coaches and administration to determine athletic field needs and scheduled use
- Prepares fields for team use, including lining and marking, grading pitching mounds, dragging infields and ensuring that goal posts, nets, pitching cages and other equipment is in place
- Works with the Grounds Maintenance Coordinator in developing and renovating fields and athletic areas, such as golf practice areas
- Ensures that the stadium is clean and ready for scheduled use
- Mows, trims, edges, fertilizes, aerifies, thatches and waters lawns and other landscaped areas
- Seeds and resods lawn areas
- Weeds, prunes, mulches, fertilizes, and sprays trees, shrubs and ground cover
- Prepares soil for planting
- Plants trees, seedlings and shrubs
- Inspects assigned areas
- Corrects or reports safety hazards
- Cleans and maintains grounds, paved areas, paths, walkways and stairways
- Performs basic facility maintenance work incidental to landscape maintenance activities
- Picks up trash and litter
- Installs, repairs and maintains irrigation systems
- Reads and interprets plans, specifications, blueprints and schematics
- Stores, mixes and sprays herbicides, fungicides and pesticides
- Performs related maintenance duties including patching asphalt, pouring cement and repairing fences and grounds equipment and facilities
- Maintains inventory of materials and supplies
- Makes material and equipment estimates for assignments and submits purchase requests to the Grounds Maintenance Coordinator
- Maintains work sites in a clean and orderly condition

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES (continued)

- Operates and maintains a variety of hand and power landscaping tools and equipment, including hand and riding mowers, tractors, backhoes, spreaders, rototillers, trenchers, sprayers, edgers, thatchers, blowers, hedge trimmers, weedeaters, chainsaws, rollers, pruners, ladders and other tools
- Observes safe work methods and uses safety equipment
- Secures worksites from traffic hazards as necessary
- Prepares basic records and reports of work accomplished, vandalism, maintenance requests, etc.
- Trains, assigns and directs the work of student assistants and volunteers
- May train, assign and direct lower level workers on a project basis
- Performs related duties as required or assigned

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Methods and techniques of athletic field development, renovation, maintenance and preparation
- Methods and techniques of planting, transplanting, cultivating, pruning and maintaining a variety of lawns, ground cover, plants, shrubs, hedges and trees
- Maintenance and operation of manual and automatic irrigation systems
- Soil preparation and enrichment
- Methods, materials and equipment used in weed, pest and insect control and treating plant diseases
- Use, routine maintenance, and minor repair of hand and power landscaping and grounds maintenance tools and equipment related to the work
- Safe work methods and safety regulations pertaining to the work
- Shop mathematics

Skill in:

- Maintaining athletic fields in a playable and safe condition
- Organizing, prioritizing and coordinating work activities
- Safely performing a variety of general gardening and grounds maintenance work
- Using and performing routine maintenance and minor repairs on landscaping and grounds maintenance tools and equipment
- Recognizing common plants, plant diseases and insect pests
- Using judgment and initiative in daily work activities
- Preparing brief, accurate oral and written reports of work performed
- Training and directing others in proper work methods and landscape maintenance techniques
- Understanding and following oral and written directions
- Reading and interpreting label instructions, maps, specifications and blueprints
- Establishing and maintaining an effective working relationship with those contacted in the course of the work

QUALIFICATIONS (continued)

Other Requirements:

- Must possess a valid California driver's license
- Possession of a valid Class B certificate is desirable
- Must possess sufficient strength and stamina to lift and carry equipment weighing up to 90 pounds and agility sufficient to perform job duties from ladders
- Must be willing to work out of doors in all weather conditions with exposure to traffic and pesticides and other potentially hazardous materials, using appropriate safety procedures and equipment
- Possession of a Category B Pesticide Applicator's license is desirable
- Must be willing to respond to emergency situations in off-hours as necessary

Education and Experience:

A typical way of gaining the knowledge and skills outlined above is:

Equivalent to graduation from high school and three years of experience in gardening and grounds maintenance work. Some college level training in horticulture or a related field is desirable.