

Trade Profile

Landscape

Horticulturist



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Structure of the Trade Profile

This profile has two sections that provide a snapshot of the trade's description, and all trade activities as they are organized in the Red Seal Occupational Standard:

Description of the Landscape Horticulturist trade: an overview of the trade's duties, work environment, job requirements, similar occupations and career progression

Task Matrix: a chart which outlines graphically the major work activities, tasks and sub-tasks of this standard

Major Work Activity (MWA): the largest division within the standard that is comprised of a distinct set of trade activities

Task: distinct actions that describe the activities within a major work activity

Sub-task: distinct actions that describe the activities within a task

Description of the Landscape Horticulturist Trade

“Landscape Horticulturist” is this trade’s official Red Seal occupational title approved by the CCDA. This standard covers tasks performed by landscape horticulturists.

Landscape horticulturists survey and assess landscapes, prepare designs and interpret plans. They construct and maintain gardens, parks, golf courses, greenhouses, nurseries, retail facilities and other landscape environments. In addition, landscape horticulturists construct and maintain hard landscape elements, such as patios, walkways and walls, as well as install and maintain components and elements of green infrastructure. They also prepare estimates, provide products and services, and advise clients on issues related to horticulture and landscape projects. Landscape horticulturists also propagate, cultivate and study plants, and treat injured and diseased plants.

Landscape horticulturists are at the forefront of environmentally responsible practices, integrating specialized skills in sustainable landscape management utilizing their expertise in water conservation, employing techniques such as xeriscaping, rainwater harvesting systems, efficient irrigation technologies, and application of native and adapted plant species, vital for promoting regional biodiversity and reducing the demands for excessive maintenance and resources. They are increasingly leveraging technological advancements to enhance sustainable outcomes in their projects.

Landscape horticulturists are employed by landscape designers, architects and contractors, lawn service and tree care establishments, recreation facilities, golf courses, parks, nurseries, greenhouses, and municipal, provincial and federal governments. They may also be self-employed.

Landscape horticulturists work with machinery and equipment ranging from simple hand tools to heavy equipment. They may be responsible for routine maintenance of tools and equipment. Landscape horticulturists may also work with a variety of products such as soils, plant health products and fuels, and must be aware of their safe use, environmental best practices and government regulations.

Some landscape horticulturists specialize in areas such as landscape design, construction and maintenance, and greenhouse, sod and nursery production. They may work independently or with other professionals such as landscape architects, architects, engineers and municipal planners.

Landscape horticulturists require good communication skills to coordinate and facilitate work with clients, co-workers and other tradespeople. They also require strong analytical, decision making and organizational abilities. The trade has a strong foundation in sciences such as botany, plant physiology and morphology, soil properties and building science principles.

Most of the work such as landscape construction and maintenance, and snow and ice management is performed outdoors in all types of weather. Indoor work may involve greenhouse production, interior landscaping, and the sale of plants, landscape materials and supplies. The work may be strenuous and may involve activities such as lifting, climbing, carrying and bending. Employment in this trade can vary from workplace to workplace and may be seasonal and based on weather. Deadlines and efficient production are an important part in the trade and landscape horticulturists must manage their time effectively.

With experience and proven competence, landscape horticulturists may advance to supervisory positions, training positions or become business owners.

This standard recognizes similarities, overlaps and collaborations with the work of other tradespeople such as arborists, bricklayers/stone masons, heavy equipment operators, roofers, electricians, plumbers, gasfitters, small engine mechanics and carpenters.

Landscape Horticulturist Task Matrix and Weightings

Major Work Activity A – Performs common occupational skills 17%

Task A-1 Maintains safe and healthy workplace 23%	Sub-task A-1.01 Uses personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety equipment	Sub-task A-1.02 Maintains safe work environment	Sub-task A-1.03 Participates in healthy and respectful workplace practices
Task A-2 Uses tools, equipment and vehicles 37%	Sub-task A-2.01 Uses hand tools	Sub-task A-2.02 Uses power tools	Sub-task A-2.03 Uses measuring equipment
Task A-3 Organizes work 27%	Sub-task A-2.04 Uses vehicles, motorized equipment, trailers and attachments	Sub-task A-3.02 Uses documentation and reference material	Sub-task A-3.03 Maintains records
	Sub-task A-3.01 Performs site assessments	Sub-task A-3.05 Orders materials	Sub-task A-3.06 Organizes materials and equipment
	Sub-task A-3.04 Participates in job planning activities	Sub-task A-3.07 Transports materials	Sub-task A-3.08 Transports equipment

<p>Task A-4 Participates in marketing and sales 13%</p>	<p>Sub-task A-4.01 Controls inventory</p>	<p>Sub-task A-4.02 Sells products and services</p>	<p>Sub-task A-4.03 Maintains customer relations</p>
	<p>Sub-task A-4.04 Prepares estimates</p>		
<p>Task A-5 Maintains continuous learning 0%</p>	<p>Sub-task A-5.01 Upgrades in new trade practices and procedures</p>	<p>Sub-task A-5.02 Upgrades in emerging technologies</p>	
<p>Task A-6 Uses communication and mentoring techniques 0%</p>	<p>Sub-task A-6.01 Uses communication techniques</p>	<p>Sub-task A-6.02 Uses mentoring techniques</p>	

Major Work Activity B – Uses horticultural principles

25%

Task B-7 Applies horticultural practices 63%	Sub-task B-7.01 Practices plant science	Sub-task B-7.02 Identifies plants	Sub-task B-7.03 Manages plant health, soil and growing conditions
	Sub-task B-7.04 Prunes plant material	Sub-task B-7.05 Propagates plant material	Sub-task B-7.06 Manages pests, diseases and invasive species
Task B-8 Applies environmental practices 37%	Sub-task B-8.01 Practices environmental stewardship	Sub-task B-8.02 Practices biodiversity enhancement	Sub-task B-8.03 Practices soil stewardship
	Sub-task B-8.04 Practices water stewardship	Sub-task B-8.05 Practices fire safety and prevention in landscaping	

Major Work Activity C – Performs landscape construction

32%

Task C-9 Performs pre-construction activities 19%	Sub-task C-9.01 Participates in landscape design activities	Sub-task C-9.02 Prepares construction site	Sub-task C-9.03 Performs grading
	Sub-task C-9.04 Installs drainage systems		
Task C-10 Installs hardscape 34%	Sub-task C-10.01 Installs landscape structures	Sub-task C-10.02 Installs surface materials	Sub-task C-10.03 Installs steps and retaining walls
	Sub-task C-10.04 Installs irrigation systems	Sub-task C-10.05 Installs water features	Sub-task C-10.06 Installs extra-low voltage landscape lighting and other extra-low voltage electrical systems
Task C-11 Installs softscape 29%	Sub-task C-11.01 Installs growing media	Sub-task C-11.02 Installs exterior landscape plants	Sub-task C-11.03 Transplants plants
	Sub-task C-11.04 Installs mulch	Sub-task C-11.05 Installs turf from seed	Sub-task C-11.06 Installs sod
	Sub-task C-11.07 Installs interior landscape plants		

<p>Task C-12 Installs green infrastructure systems 18%</p>	<p>Sub-task C-12.01 Participates in green infrastructure design strategies</p>	<p>Sub-task C-12.02 Installs green roofs</p>	<p>Sub-task C-12.03 Installs green walls</p>
	<p>Sub-task C-12.04 Installs rainwater and stormwater management systems</p>	<p>Sub-task C-12.05 Installs erosion control</p>	<p>Sub-task C-12.06 Installs biodiverse plantings and natural areas</p>

Major Work Activity D – Performs landscape maintenance

26%

Task D-13 Maintains hardscape 31%	Sub-task D-13.01 Maintains drainage systems	Sub-task D-13.02 Maintains landscape structures	Sub-task D-13.03 Maintains surface materials
	Sub-task D-13.04 Maintains steps and retaining walls	Sub-task D-13.05 Maintains irrigation systems	Sub-task D-13.06 Maintains water features
	Sub-task D-13.07 Maintains extra-low voltage landscape lighting and other extra-low voltage electrical systems	Sub-task D-13.08 Practices snow and ice management within landscaping	Sub-task D-13.09 Repairs hardscape
Task D-14 Maintains softscape 49%	Sub-task D-14.01 Maintains exterior softscape	Sub-task D-14.02 Maintains interior softscape	Sub-task D-14.03 Maintains turfgrass
	Sub-task D-14.04 Repairs softscape		
Task D-15 Maintains green infrastructure systems 20%	Sub-task D-15.01 Maintains green roofs	Sub-task D-15.02 Maintains green walls	Sub-task D-15.03 Maintains rainwater and stormwater management systems
	Sub-task D-15.04 Maintains erosion control	Sub-task D-15.05 Maintains biodiverse plantings and natural areas	

Major Work Activity E – Works in production of plant material 0%
Not Common Core (NCC)

Task E-16 Operates and maintains growing facilities Not Common Core	Sub-task E-16.01 Installs growing facility components NCC	Sub-task E-16.02 Operates growing facility structures and amenities NCC	Sub-task E-16.03 Maintains sanitary environments NCC
	Sub-task E-16.04 Operates climate control systems NCC	Sub-task E-16.05 Operates irrigation and fertigation systems NCC	
Task E-17 Manages greenhouse crops Not Common Core	Sub-task E-17.01 Develops greenhouse crop production plan NCC	Sub-task E-17.02 Propagates greenhouse crops NCC	Sub-task E-17.03 Transplants greenhouse crops NCC
	Sub-task E-17.04 Grows greenhouse crops NCC	Sub-task E-17.05 Harvests greenhouse crops NCC	Sub-task E-17.06 Ships greenhouse crops NCC
Task E-18 Manages nursery crops Not Common Core	Sub-task E-18.01 Develops nursery crop production plan NCC	Sub-task E-18.02 Propagates field and container crops NCC	Sub-task E-18.03 Transplants field and container crops NCC
	Sub-task E-18.04 Grows field and container crops NCC	Sub-task E-18.05 Harvests field and container crops NCC	Sub-task E-18.06 Ships field and container crops NCC
	Sub-task E-18.07 Winterizes field and container crops NCC		