

KERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CLASS TITLE: HORTICULTURE LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

BASIC FUNCTION:

Under the direction of an assigned supervisor, perform a variety of duties related to landscaping and maintenance of grounds of the Agriculture Department greenhouses, arboretum, nursery, orchard and Christmas tree farm; assist in the preparation of the horticultural laboratories.

REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:

Water, mow, weed, trim and fertilize lawns of the arboretum and horticulture laboratory; rake leaves and clear debris; cut, pull, till, disc, plow, scrape and spray weeds. *E*

Water, weed and prune tree and shrub areas, ground cover areas and vine areas of the arboretum, greenhouses, nursery, orchard and Christmas tree farm; perform maintenance and repair of the irrigation systems; change and adjust heads; maintain controllers and participate in irrigation system installation. *E*

Propagate plants from cuttings; transplant from container to container, from container to ground or from ground to container. *E*

Apply insecticides, herbicides, fungicides; monitor and control soil conditions mechanically and chemically. *E*

Prepare instructional labs as directed by instructors, including setup of equipment and materials, mixing experimental soil media, and arranging field trips. *E*

Develop and maintain a plant materials inventory; development and maintain a supply inventory; order supplies as needed. *E*

Perform minor mechanical work and maintenance on a variety of operating equipment. *E*

Operate grounds maintenance equipment including tractor, rototiller, and trencher; operate power tools including mowers, edgers, trimmers, chain saw and post hole digger; maintain hand tools and assigned equipment. *E*

Identify equipment needs for each assigned project; utilize proper safety precautions. *E*

Assist in budget preparation by monitoring supply and repair costs and equipment repair expenditures.

Perform related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:

KNOWLEDGE OF:

Methods, practices, equipment and tools used in the maintenance of landscaped areas and facilities.
Soil and temperature conditions for growing a variety of plants, bushes, trees, flowers and grass.
Insecticide, herbicide and fungicide application.
Principles and procedures of record keeping.
Basic arithmetic.
Safe work practices.

ABILITY TO:

Recognize weeds, insects and diseases harmful to assigned area.
Use and operate hand tools, mechanical equipment, and power tools and equipment in a safe and efficient manner.
Understand and follow oral and written instructions.
Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Any combination equivalent to: graduation from high school and two years of increasingly responsible experience in nursery maintenance.

LICENSES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Possession or, or ability to obtain, a valid California driver's license.
Possession of, or ability to obtain, a Qualified Applicator Certificate (QAC).
Satisfactory completion of pre-employment physical assessment.
Satisfactory completion of pre-employment drug testing.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

ENVIRONMENT:

Indoor and outdoor environment.
Driving a vehicle to conduct work.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

Incorporated within one or more of the previously mentioned essential functions of this job description are essential physical requirements. The chart below indicates the percentage of time spent on each of the following essential physical requirements.

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|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Seldom = Less than 25 percent | 3. Often = 51-75 percent |
| 2. Occasional = 25-50 percent | 4. Very Frequent = 76 percent and above |

- 1 a. Ability to work at a desk, conference table or in meetings of various configurations.

- 3 b. Ability to stand for extended periods of time.
- 4 c. Ability to see for purposes of reading printed matter and operating a vehicle and grounds maintenance equipment.
- 2 d. Ability to hear and understand speech at normal levels.
- 2 e. Ability to communicate so others will be able to clearly understand a normal conversation.
- 4 f. Ability to bend and twist, stoop, kneel, crawl, push, pull.
- 3 g. Ability to lift 50 lbs.
- 3 h. Ability to carry 50 lbs.
- 4 I. Ability to reach in all directions.
- 2 j. Ability to work at heights.
- 3 k. Ability to use all gardening tools such as shovels, picks, hoes, weedwacker, blower.

This job description is intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed. It is not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required of individuals so classified.