

Landscape Horticulturist

Build and keep the planted world: lawns, gardens, ball fields and street trees. You can start the week after high school.

TYPICAL PAY

\$39,150

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$31k to \$57k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Landscape companies, golf courses, parks, school and campu...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grade 12
Biology and any agriculture or shop class. A driver's license matters more than your transcript here.
- 2 First season on a crew** 1 season
Mowing, edging, planting, mulching, irrigation repair. You will learn the equipment, the plants and how fast is fast enough.
- 3 Add a license or a credential** A few months, part time
A state pesticide applicator license is the single most valuable one. The Landscape Industry Certified Technician credential from the National Association of Landscape Professionals tests installation, maintenance and irrigation skills and is offered in English and Spanish.
- 4 Horticulture or turf degree, if you want the supervisor jobs** 2 years
A two-year community college program in horticulture, turfgrass or landscape management. Golf superintendents and campus grounds managers usually have one.
- 5 Lead, specialize or own** 3 to 8 years in
Crew leader, irrigation specialist, arborist, designer or business owner. Every one of these pays more than the crew.

Pros and cons

- + No tuition and no waiting, you can start immediately
- + Outdoors, physical, and you can see what you finished
- + Very easy to start your own business
- The median is under \$40,000 and the ceiling is low without a credential
- Seasonal in most of the country, so winter income can vanish
- Heat, cold, noise, insects and a lot of repetition

Optional boosts

State pesticide applicator license. Landscape Industry Certified Technician. Irrigation certification. Arborist certification.

Good to know

It is one of the biggest jobs in the country

About 1,192,500 people work in landscaping and groundskeeping in the United States, with roughly 158,200 openings a year. Very few careers have that much churn, which is why getting hired is easy and...

Golf courses run on turf science

A golf course superintendent manages soil chemistry, irrigation, disease and mowing heights measured in fractions of an inch. It is a horticulture and management job with a degree behind it, and it pays...

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers (37-3011.00)
O*NET OnLine: Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers
National Association of Landscape Professionals: certification
Apprenticeship.gov: apprenticeship job finder

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/landscape-horticulturist>



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