

SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CLASS TITLE: LEAD GARDENER

BASIC FUNCTION:

Under the direction of the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, assist in the planning and organization of the grounds department; perform complex grounds maintenance work, including inter-campus/high profile planting, pruning and pesticide application and maintenance; assure pest, weed and disease control through application of pesticides and herbicides; train and provide work direction to assigned crews.

REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:

Assist in the planning and organization of the grounds department. *E*

Train and provide leadership and guidance to assigned crews. *E*

Design landscapes and perform construction related to landscapes and hardscapes. *E*

Plan, organize and perform landscape and hardscape duties to prescribed standards of operation. *E*

Operate, maintain and perform minor repair on equipment such as tractor, backhoe, gang mower and other grounds maintenance equipment; drive a truck; operate and maintain a variety of hand and power equipment used in pesticide and fertilizer applications. *E*

Diagnose plant diseases and pest problems; calibrate, calculate and apply pesticides and herbicides according to federal, State and county regulations; assure proper disposal of wastes produced by pesticide and fertilizer applications. *E*

Mow and maintain inter-campus/high profile turf, planters and fields; trim and prune shrubs, hedges and trees according to applicable standards of the industry. *E*

Install automatic clocks; set and operate clocks to provide proper coverage according to seasonal requirements; remain current on new sprinkler technologies to assure efficient and economical irrigation systems. *E*

Water lawns, plants and fields; hoe weeds and rake lawns; transplant and pot plants and maintain nursery stock; assure proper irrigation, fertilization and pest management techniques in landscape, right-of-way and turf maintenance. *E*

Perform general grounds maintenance duties in picking up paper and trash in grounds areas; clean and remove weeds from sidewalks, parking lots and roads. *E*

Prepare records and reports as directed. *E*

Develop and implement a schedule for landscape maintenance and pest management. *E*

Plan and layout sprinkler systems for designated lawn areas as directed; review plans with superiors; install sprinkler lines as directed to assure adequate sprinkler coverage for lawn areas.

Install, maintain, repair and replace sprinklers including sprinkler heads, clocks and sprinkler valves.

Provide work direction and guidance to student workers as assigned during regular schedule in the performance of landscape, sports field and hardscape maintenance work.

Participate in athletic field grounds work as assigned.

Perform related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:

KNOWLEDGE OF:

Methods, tools, materials, equipment and practices utilized in grounds maintenance and gardening work. Plant materials and culture thereof.

Design and layout of general irrigation systems including the knowledge of types of lawns and the frequency and amount of watering required.

Principles and practices of training and providing work direction.

Methods involved in the installation, repair and maintenance of sprinkler systems.

Regulations and safety precautions related to the use and application of pesticides and herbicides.

Nursery and landscape practices and operations.

Record keeping techniques.

Oral and written communications skills.

Technical aspects of landscape maintenance and pest management.

ABILITY TO:

Diagnose and treat plant diseases and problems.

Cultivate, fertilize, water and spray planted areas properly.

Train and provide work direction to assigned crews.

Learn methods, procedures, equipment and materials used in ornamental horticulture.

Make independent judgments within the framework of good gardening practices.

Learn appropriate record keeping techniques.

Operate equipment used in sprinkler repair.

Operate and maintain hand and power equipment including mowers, edgers, trimmers, vacuums, rototillers, renovators and other grounds maintenance equipment.

Read blueprints and layouts.

Use appropriate methods and materials of plant pests and weeds management.

Meet schedules and time lines.

Understand and follow oral and written directions.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Any combination equivalent to: graduation from high school supplemented by course work in ornamental horticulture, landscaping or related field and five years ornamental horticulture experience.

LICENSES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Valid California driver's license and safe driving record.
California Qualified Applicator's license.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

ENVIRONMENT:

Outdoor environment.
Driving a vehicle to conduct work.

PHYSICAL ABILITIES:

Heavy physical labor.
Bending at the waist.
Walking over rough or uneven surfaces.
Pushing, pulling, lifting and carrying heavy objects.
Standing and walking for extended periods of time.
Dexterity of hands and fingers to operate specialized gardening and equipment.

HAZARDS:

Pesticide and herbicide chemicals and fumes.
Fumes and noise from vehicle and equipment operation.
Dust, dirt, oil/grease, gases, and pollen.
Working with or around machinery with moving parts, and extreme weather conditions.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD November 12, 1997