

ARBORIST

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: Performs professional tree, shrub and flower work, and instructs tree trimmers and park groundsmen; does related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision, an incumbent in this class performs and directs others in arborist work. The incumbent is responsible for inspecting trees, shrubs and flowerbeds to determine the need for trimming, spraying or other appropriate treatment. Responsibility includes planning and scheduling of work, keeping records of time and material, requisitioning supplies and preparing reports. Work is performed with considerable independence within departmental and horticultural guidelines.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Assigns, instructs and directs tree trimmers and park groundsmen;

Directs tree spray programs;

Oversees the planting, pruning, topping, felling, cabling, and climbing of trees;

Plans, plants and maintains all flower beds;

Operates power saws and spraying equipment;

Inspects trees, develops a tree inventory and determines appropriate action;

Advises and assists in turf management program;

Lays out jobs and estimates manpower and equipment needs;

Recommends new equipment and requisitions supplies;

Prepares information for budget requests;

Maintains records and reports for arborist maintenance program.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of tree maintenance and arboriculture; thorough knowledge of pesticides and their application; thorough knowledge of the safety precautions of the trade; skill in the use of equipment of the trade including power and hand tools; ability to climb trees and tie knots; ability to identify tree species, flowers, common insects and diseases; ability to plan, lay out and supervise the work of others; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Either (a) Bachelor's Degree in forestry, horticulture or urban forestry or closely related field; or (b) an Associate's Degree in forestry, horticulture or urban forestry or closely related field and two years experience in tree work including climbing and spraying trees; or (c) completion of a high school level vocational course in tree work and four years varied experience in tree work including climbing and spraying trees; or (d) a satisfactory equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (a), (b) and (c).

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: (1) Must be a certified applicator in category 3 and 3A according to the N.Y.S.D.E.C. rules and regulations to apply pesticides.