CAREER PROFILES

Nursery and Greenhouse Workers:

Nursery and Greenhouse Workers plant, cultivate, and harvest trees, shrubs, flowers, and plants, and serve nursery and greenhouse customers.

Wage/Salary Information:

$27,557.87 is the median annual salary found locally.

$14.00/hour is the median wage reported locally.

Commonly Listed Skills in Job Postings:

- Detail oriented
- Teamwork
- Forklift driving
- Numeracy
- Critical thinking
- Creativity
- Problem solving
- Bilingual
- Heavy equipment operation
- Tool use
- Manual dexterity
- Microsoft Office
- Oral and written communication

Job Duties:

Nursery and Greenhouse Workers prepare soil, plant bulbs, seeds and cuttings, graft and bud plants, and transplant seedlings and rooted cuttings. Nursery and Greenhouse Workers monitor plants for healthy growth and potential weed, insect, disease, and fertilizer problems in greenhouse crops and spray trees, shrubs, flowers, and plants to prevent disease and pests. They position and regulate greenhouse and outdoor irrigation systems to water plants and fields and dig, cut, and transplant trees, shrubs, flowers, and plants and prepare them for sale. Nursery and Greenhouse Workers also provide information to customers on gardening, the use of various garden tools and products, and the care of trees, shrubs, flowers, plants, and lawns.

Working Conditions:

Nursery and Greenhouse Workers typically work 40 hours per week, however, they may be required to work up to 60 hours per week during the peak harvesting/shipping season.

Workers may spend a large portion of their day outdoors or in climate controlled greenhouses. These workers can be at risk for heat exhaustion when working outdoors in summer months for extended periods of time. Cold temperatures may also be experienced.

Specialized workers (those who have pest applicators certificates) are required to work with hazardous chemicals, so they are required to wear safety equipment such as face masks, safety glasses, and protective gloves and clothing.

Nursery and Greenhouse Workers do a variety of jobs, including plant potting, shipping, receiving, propagation and harvesting.

Greenhouse Workers mainly work with their hands during the picking of greenhouse vegetables or flowers, using a variety of specialty tools. This may lead to repetitive motion injuries, such as tendonitis and bursitis.

Some workers may be required to lift heavy objects. As such, workers must maintain an adequate level of physical fitness and take precautions when lifting heavy objects in order to avoid back or other injuries.

Increased attention to safety within this industry has significantly lowered the risk of workplace injuries and ailments.

Career Pathways:

Workers typically begin as General Labourers. After gaining extensive experience or upon completion of a post-secondary horticultural program, workers may find work as Assistant Pest Managers, Propagators, Assistant Growers, Technical Assistants, Lead Hand on potting, picking and shipping crews, or may be hired in a sales position. Workers may also choose to become an owner/operator of their own business.

Nursery and Greenhouse Workers are employed in indoor and outdoor nurseries and greenhouses. Below are potential career pathways for Nursery and Greenhouse Workers:

- Forest Nursery Worker
- Greenhouse Worker
- Horticulture Worker
- Hothouse Worker
- Hydroponics Worker
- Interior Plantscaper
- Nursery Worker
- Plant Propagator
- Tree Grafter

Check out more possible career pathways on WEexplore.

Education and Training Pathways:

If you're interested in becoming a Nursery and Greenhouse Worker, you can begin your apprenticeship or attend a local training/education program.

Apprenticeship Details:

Horticultural Technician

- Certification: Voluntary (not required to practice this profession in Ontario)
- Red Seal: Yes
- Training: 6,120 hours of combined on-the-job and in-class technical training
- In-class training: 12-week technical session

Individuals interested in pursuing an apprenticeship pathway, should follow these steps:

1) Get hired – by an employer/sponsor/union
2) Apply online to register as an apprentice at www.ontario.ca/page/start-apprenticeship
3) Sign a training agreement with your employer/sponsor and the Employment Ontario apprenticeship office.
4) Become a Member of the Ontario College of Trades Apprentices Class at www.collegeoftrades.ca/membership
5) Keep a record of the hours you work
6) Achieve the competencies listed in your training standard if required in your trade
7) Complete all of the training requirements in your trade and you will receive a Certificate of Apprenticeship (CoA).
8) Write the Exam for the Certificate of Qualification if required in your trade

If you are currently in high school and would like to begin an apprenticeship, visit oyap.com for more information about the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.

Individuals unsure about whether to pursue an apprenticeship or not, can learn more by visiting www.ontario.ca/page/prepare-apprenticeship

St. Clair College:

Landscape Horticulture

Admission/Eligibility Requirements: OSSD with the majority of courses at the College (C), University (U), University/College (M), or Open (O)

Academic Credential: Two Year - Ontario College Diploma

Professional Certification: Students will be prepared to pursue Landscape Ontario's Landscape Industry Certified Technician Exam, and also receive training for certification in Pesticides (Technician and Exterminator), Front End Loader/Skid Steer Operator and Chainsaw Certification

Attendance: In-person

Full-time or Part-time: Full-time

Program Length: 4 semesters

Program Cycle: Unknown

Program Cost:

- Year 1: $4,341.61
- Year 2: $3,819.05
- Total: $8,160.66 (2017/18)

OSAP Eligible: Unknown

Location: 2000 Talbot Road West, Windsor, N9A 6S4

For more information on this program, please visit:

http://www.stclaircollege.ca/programs/postsec/horticulture/

Disclaimer: *The educational institution reserves the right to change information without notice, and may result in discrepancies between their information and the information presented above. If any errors are found, please report them to info@workforcewindsoressex.com.*