

Garden & nursery labourer

Average salary: \$49,400

Career trend: strong growth

Job description

Garden and nursery labourers surround themselves with plants and trees, and happily get their hands dirty as they nurture a tiny seedling to maturity. The idea is to propagate, cultivate and maintain plants in gardens and nurseries to ensure they're at their best.

What gardeners do

Garden and nursery workers are professional growers who work hands-on to ensure their plants thrive so nature lovers can buy and enjoy them. Working from seedling to maturity, they determine the environmental conditions necessary for optimum growth by monitoring temperatures, humidity and soils.

They work in all weather conditions for long hours on their hands and knees in the dirt lifting, shovelling, digging, cutting, pruning, watering, planting, and fertilising. Garden and nursery workers also care for trees by staking young saplings, tying and wrapping them and packing them for transportation. They may identify and control insects, rodents, birds, weeds, and other diseases.

After the initial growing process, garden and nursery workers focus on selling. They're experts on the plants and trees they've grown and can advise customers how to give their plant a long healthy life. In very large greenhouses and tree farms, garden and nursery workers use a variety of farm equipment. They operate harvesting machines, tractors, fertiliser spreaders, and assembly line equipment.

You'll like this job if...

You're able to work independently. You prefer a deliberate pace. You like working with your hands. You use logic, reasoning, and critical thinking. You're sensitive and cooperative. You're creative. You're a problem solver. You can read plans and follow instructions. You're physically fit. You like performing outdoor work.

Will I get a job?

- Some growth is predicted for this occupation in the next four years, with 200 new jobs in Australia, bringing the total to 32,800.

What will I earn?

- Up to \$950 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

Roles to look for

- Garden labourer
- Horticultural nursery assistant
- Nursery hand
- Parks maintenance labourer
- Parks and gardens labourer

A day in the life...

Work as a garden and nursery labourer may involve these tasks:

- Load, unload and move garden supplies and equipment
- Prepare garden sites and plots using hand tools and machines
- Assist with planting and transplanting flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns
- Maintain gardens by watering, weeding and mowing lawns
- Clean gardens and remove rubbish
- Plant trees, bushes, hedges, flowers, and bulbs
- Assist with propagating, planting and potting seeds, bulbs and cuttings
- Tend plants by hand, including watering and weeding
- Adjust mist irrigation systems, shade and ventilation
- Examine trees to assess their condition and determine treatment
- Spray and dust plants and trees to control insects and disease.
- Harvest and package plants for sale and transport.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate II in Horticulture (AHC20416)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 77.5%*

Certificate II in Arboriculture (AHC20516)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 78.6%*

Certificate II in Parks and Gardens (AHC20616)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 78.6%*

Certificate II in Production Nursery (AHC20716)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 78.6%*

Certificate II in Sports Turf Management (AHC20916)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 78.6%*

Certificate II in Landscaping (AHC21616)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 78.6%*

Main employing industries

- Gardening services
- Construction
- Public sector, public administration and safety

Other jobs you may like...

- Crop farm worker
- Forestry and logging worker
- Mixed crop worker

VET offers possibilities for hundreds of careers.

For more information, visit



www.vet.nsw.gov.au

Information sources Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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