



SEED ORCHARD TECHNICIAN

Characteristics of Work

This is paraprofessional work involving the development and operation of a tree seed orchard in accordance with Mississippi Forestry Commission rules and regulations. The work includes preparing orchard planning sites; grading and planting seedlings; grafting tree cuttings onto rootstock; applying herbicides, insecticides, and mulch to plants; and pruning, fertilizing, and transplanting plants as needed. Supervision is received from a forester.

Examples of Work

The following are examples of work performed for positions in this job class, and are not intended to reflect the essential functions of any one position. The essential functions of each individual position are determined and maintained by each individual agency.

Prepare 15-20 acre sites with farm type machinery.

Apply herbicides, fungicides and fertilizers properly.

Grade, plant, and mulch rootstock to insure future graftability.

Collect by bucket truck, scion materials according to the specific procedure to insure viability.

Graft designated scion (cuttings) into proper rootstock with exacting standards and documentation.

Discern and perform proper after-care to grafted rootstock.

Construct and maintain fire lanes.

Monitor cone insect threat by pheromone trapping.

Determine and execute needed insect and disease prevention activities.

Collect pollens for extraction and storage.

Isolate female flowers and prepare for control pollination.

Prepare median formulations for greenhouse and growing of test seedlings.

Replicate, seedcoat treat and stratification of seed lots.

Test tray design and replication for field planting.

Supervise and assist field planting of progeny tests to extremely exacting specifications.

Cone ripeness testing.

Designate, by clone, tree families to be collected.

Examples of Work (Continued)

Monitor and instruct contract workers on cone collection operations.

Service and maintain vehicles, tractors and shop equipment in accordance with MFC standards.

Conduct safety inspections.

Maintain greenhouse and related specialty equipment.

Related or similar duties are performed as required or assigned.

Minimum Requirements

An Associate Degree from an accredited two-year junior college in Forestry;

OR

Graduation from a standard four-year high school or equivalent (GED) and two (2) years of experience directly related to orchard or nursery operations.

Substitution Statement

Directly related education and directly related experience may be substituted on an equal basis.