

SENIOR GARDENER, 3143

Summary of duties : A Senior Gardener performs skilled gardening, and irrigation work, and supervises employees engaged in routine gardening, ground maintenance and irrigation work in a City park, recreation area, golf course, nursery, grounds of public buildings, and other landscaped areas.

Distinguishing Features : The work performed by an employee of this class requires a higher level of gardening skill and knowledge of planting, propagation, irrigation, pruning, and general care of ornamental shrubs and other perennials, annuals, and grasses than is required of Gardener Caretakers. A Senior Gardener is distinguished from a Park Maintenance Supervisor, by the fact that the latter directs a larger gardening and maintenance operation, including the work of Senior Gardeners. When charged with the responsibility for performing skilled propagation, employees of this class are expected to proceed on their own initiative, however, they have a supervisor available to whom difficult problems can be referred. The work of a Senior Gardener is only occasionally checked in process, but is normally reviewed upon completion to assure satisfactory performance. An employee of this class is typically a working supervisor, usually performing the more skilled work while supervising one or more employees in the more routine work.

Examples of Duties : Propagates, plants, cultivates, irrigates, trims, sprays, fertilizes and prunes, ornamental trees, flowers shrubs ground cover and turf grasses, while supervising other employees in this work; prepares soil for sowing seeds; makes cuttings of plant materials for propagation; prepares various types of fertilizers and soil mixtures for potting different types of plants; transfers plants from smaller containers into larger ones; fills nursery stock orders upon receipt of requisitions; inspects plants for insect infestation, fungi, and other diseases and insures that they are properly watered and cultivated; uses herbicides for the control of weeds; maintains records of movement of nursery stock, monthly inventory, temperature and weather conditions, and propagation schedules; requisitions tools, grass seed, fertilizers, and spray materials;

Performs both skilled gardening and routine gardening maintenance work in park areas, playgrounds, golf courses and grounds of City buildings; waters and mows lawns; operates hand and power mowers, sweepers, scrubbers, power sprayers, sprinkler systems and other gardening equipment and instructs subordinates in their operation; cares for and maintains golf greens, tees and fairways; makes minor repairs and adjustments to machinery used in gardening work;

repairs and replaces sprinkler heads; repairs leaks in irrigation

systems involving mostly plastic and galvanized pipe between 1/2" to 2" in diameter;

maintains playground equipment and sets up tables, chairs, stages and recreation equipment for special events; supervises employees engaged in cleaning and minor maintenance of recreation buildings; occasionally makes minor repairs to broken rails, fences, and benches; assists a Park Maintenance Supervisor in directing and laying-out park and playground maintenance work; maintains monthly work reports;

Plants, fertilizes, aerates, and resods golf and bowling greens, mixes compost for top dressing; assures that Bermuda grass is properly removed; directs a helper in greens maintenance work;

Answers questions and handles complaints from the public regarding park and gardening operations; and may occasionally enforce rules and regulations in parks, playgrounds, and grounds around public buildings.

Qualifications: A good knowledge of the planting, cultivating, pruning and care of ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers and turf grasses; a good knowledge of sprinklers systems; a good knowledge of the propagation of plants; a good knowledge of the types of soils and how to prepare them for planting; a good knowledge of planting techniques; a good knowledge of the types of fertilizers and their use; a good knowledge of the use of herbicides for the control of noxious weeds; a working knowledge of soils sterilants; a working knowledge of the common names of a variety of trees, scrubs and other perennials and annuals commonly found Southern California; a working knowledge of the use and care of gardening and maintenance of equipment and tools such as power mowers and power sprayers; a working knowledge of the insects, parasites, and fungi that damage plant life and of the sprays and other methods used for their control; working knowledge of the boxing, transplanting and balling of trees; working knowledge of the routine care and maintenance of golf courses, recreation areas, and ground around buildings; working knowledge of basic arithmetic and the principles of supervision; a general knowledge of the laws and regulations related to Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action; a general knowledge of Memorandum of Understanding as they relate to subordinate personnel; general knowledge of City personnel rules; general knowledge of safety practices and first aid applicable to landscape and horticulture work;

The ability to use, maintain, and make minor repairs to gardening and maintenance equipment and tools; the ability to trim and prune and shrubs and small trees; the ability to maintain records and prepare simple reports; the ability to work with, and supervise, a group of employees; and the ability to meet and deal tactfully and effectively with the public.

Two years of full-time experience in the propagation, care or

maintenance of plants, flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns is required. One year of accredited college education with at least two courses in horticulture, botany, or related field may be substituted for one year of the required experience.

License: A valid California driver's license is required.

Physical Requirements: Strength to perform average lifting up to 35 pounds and occasionally over 70 pounds; back and leg coordination involved in activities such as stooping, kneeling and crouching; good hearing and speaking ability; and good eyesight.

Persons with medical limitations may, with reasonable accommodations, be capable of performing the duties of some of the positions in this class. Such determination must be made on an individual basis in light of the person's limitations, the requirements of the position, and the appointing authority's ability to effect reasonable accommodations to the person's limitations.

As provided in Civil Service Commission Rule 2.5 and Section 4.55 of the Administrative Code, this specification is descriptive, explanatory and not restrictive. It is not intended to declare what all of the duties and responsibilities of any position shall be.