



JOB of the Week



Job name: Landscape Gardener

Job description: Landscape gardeners create functional, beautiful and relaxing gardens; they use design, regenerate and maintain. The landscape gardener will meet with their client to discuss the project, then produce a series of sketches, plans and designs before presenting them to the client. The landscape gardener is responsible for hiring equipment and labourers, buying the materials they need. They will plant trees, bushes, flowers, shrubs, be responsible for making sure lawns and soil are growing well. Landscape gardeners also build fences and gazebos, rockeries, decking and patios. They might also be in charge of installing a garden with lighting, furniture and other finishing touches.

Tasks you will undertake in the job: As a Landscape gardener, you'll:

- supervise and assist in the planning, preparation and maintenance of gardens, grounds and other leisure areas - this will involve the design of planting schemes, cultivation and the management of weekly, monthly and annual maintenance programmes
- analyse horticultural and operational costs for a project
- manage pest, disease and weed control programmes in accordance with health and hygiene standards, and ensure a prompt response and the maintenance of service contracts
- acquire knowledge of regulations (including pesticides, chainsaws and use of machinery), the use of personal protective equipment and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (CoSHH)
- ensure that UK and international quality, hygiene, health and safety and employment standards and regulations are met
- meet the increasing requirements of organic cultivation
- assist in the development of the wildlife in gardens and grounds
- conduct environmental assessments
- consider proposed changes to existing public amenities and leisure locations and assess their potential benefits
- visit historical sites, research old plans and documents and plan restoration programmes
- regularly inspect machinery and equipment and arrange for it to be serviced
- take inventories of stock items such as plants, trees and machinery
- identify technical and operational problems and investigate the causes
- formulate solutions and plan and organise trials to assess their effectiveness; prepare new or modified operational and business plans
- manage contractors and negotiate with suppliers and buyers; organise presentations, technical visits and demonstrations; develop the knowledge and experience to guide and support a team
- communicate effectively with the visiting public, local officials and elected representatives, working colleagues and professional groups, both orally and in writing, through briefings, reports and presentations
- carry out administrative tasks including records, budgets and accounts
- keep up to date with industry developments in your specialist area and the sector as a whole

Skills required for this job (core competencies):

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

Sectors in which Landscape gardeners would normally work:

Typical employers of amenity horticulturists include: Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC); English Heritage; Historic Scotland; National Trust; National Trust for Scotland; Scottish Natural Heritage; commercial leisure enterprises, such as golf clubs, country clubs, safari and theme parks, and sports venues; commercial companies supplying products, equipment and services to the industry; environmental and conservation bodies, such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and The Wildlife Trusts; many work for local authorities and national park authorities; botanic gardens, including those connected to universities and specialist gardens such as Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Salary: Landscape gardeners are typically paid a starting wage of £17 000, this increases with experience, skilled Landscape gardeners can expect to earn approximately £20 000 - £30 000 and Head Gardeners can earn up to £40 000 per year.



Working hours: You'll typically work a 40-hour week, though working hours and workloads may vary according to the season. Hours can be long and weekend working may be necessary. Part-time work and career breaks are also possible.

Qualifications to become a Landscape gardener:

You could improve your chances of developing a professional career in amenity horticulture by taking a degree in one of the following subjects: commerce; crop and plant science; environmental science; food science / technology; horticulture and soil science.

Foundation degrees and HNDs are available in a range of subjects including: amenity horticulture; garden design; landscaping; sports turf management.

You can also gain entry to a career as an amenity horticulturist through a non-degree route, by completing an apprenticeship, such as those offered by Grow and the Eden Project. You can also search on the government website Apprenticeships.gov.uk. Rather than completing a full degree, you can work towards a range of nationally-recognised certificates and diplomas. Choosing from a variety of subjects, including amenity horticulture, horticultural sciences, landscape and garden design, and organic production.

Essential skills you need to show: To succeed as a Landscape gardener, the following personal skills and attributes would give you an advantage:

- good communication and interpersonal skills
- efficient planning skills; the ability to organise and manage your own workload
- problem-solving skills
- physical fitness
- the ability to work as part of a team and under your own initiative
- management and business skills
- creativity
- financial awareness; numeracy and IT skills
- a good eye for detail
- a hands-on, practical and realistic approach to work; flexibility and a willingness to work in a busy and varied environment
- knowledge of health and safety regulations and procedures; full driving licence (usually essential)

This job in the future: The workforce is projected to grow by 3.1%, creating 4 500 jobs; in the same period, 98% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 143 000 job opportunities.

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www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors
www.ucas.com/careers-advice
www.kudos/cascaid.co.uk/#/ (you all have a log on for this service)
www.careersbox.co.uk (careers videos)

Helpful sites for careers information
GAT careers links

<http://airhead.io/public/launchpads/XqbuOMJgb0OfqvMPCykcZA>



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