HORTICULTURE

Employment of landscaping and groundskeepers is expected to grow as fast as the average for all occupations through the year 2021. Growth in the construction of all types of buildings requiring lawn care and maintenance, from office buildings to shopping malls and residential housing, and more highways and parks, will contribute to demand for landscaping workers. Major institutions recognize the importance of good landscape design in attracting personnel and clients and are expected to use grounds maintenance services more extensively to maintain and upgrade their properties. Homeowners are a growing source of demand for grounds maintenance workers. As the population ages, more elderly homeowners will require lawn care services to help maintain their yards. Job opportunities for tree trimmers and pruners will be as fast as average, as utility companies step up pruning of trees around electric lines to prevent power outages. Pesticide handlers will be needed to help combat infestations caused by new species of insects from other countries. Opportunities may vary with local economic conditions.

Employment Information

Greater Kansas City Area: In 2016, those employed in horticulture related professions held an estimated 11,030 jobs in the fifteen counties that make up the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), with 11,928 projected by 2021 (+8.1%). Of those jobs in 2016, 1,146 were first-line supervisors and managers of landscaping, lawn service, and groundskeeping workers; 9,273 landscaping and groundskeepers; 206 pesticide handlers; and 406 tree trimmers and pruners.

State: In Kansas, those employed in horticulture related professions held an estimated 16,482 jobs in 2016, with 18,090 jobs projected by 2021 (+9.8%). Of those jobs in 2016, 13,501 were landscaping and groundskeepers (14,870 projected, +10%); 582 were pesticide handlers (566 projected, +7%); 1,875 were first-line supervisors and managers of landscaping, lawn service, and groundskeepers (2,000 projected, +7%); and 578 were tree trimmers and pruners (654 projected, +13%). All together 1,608 openings are anticipated due to growth and the need for replacements.

National: About 1,739,758 jobs were held by those in horticulture related professions in 2016, with 1,882,143 jobs projected by 2021 (+8.2%). Of those jobs in 2016, 1,462,298 were landscaping and groundskeepers (1,585,510 projected, +8%); 167,181 were first-line supervisors and managers of landscaping, lawn service, and groundskeepers (176,493 projected, +6%); 36,657 were pesticide handlers (39,486 projected, +8%); and 73,622 were tree trimmers (80,655 projected, +10%) Approximately 142,385 openings are expected due to growth and the need for replacement workers.

September 2017
Salary Information

**Greater Kansas City Area:** Landscaping and grounds maintenance workers earned employed in the Greater Kansas City area earned an average hourly wage of $12.00 in 2016. Additionally, first-line supervisors and managers of landscaping, lawn service, and groundskeepers earned $17.15 per hour; pesticide handlers earned $14.64; and tree trimmers earned $14.04 per hour.

**State:** Pesticide handlers in Kansas earned an average hourly wage of $16.11 in 2016. Additionally, landscaping and groundskeepers earned $10.72; tree trimmers and pruners earned $12.67 per hour; and first-line supervisors and managers of landscaping, lawn service, and groundskeepers earned $17.01 per hour.

**National:** Pesticide handlers working full-time earned an average hourly wage of $15.17 in 2016. Additionally, landscaping and groundskeepers earned $11.82 per hour; tree trimmers and pruners earned $15.43 per hour; first-line supervisors and managers of landscaping, lawn service, and groundskeepers earned $17.75 per hour.

**JCCC Placement and Salary Information**

The JCCC Office of Institutional Research conducts a follow-up study of program completers one year after completion. One-hundred percent of the graduates who responded to the follow-up study conducted during 2015-16, and were employed, were employed in a related field and reported earning an average hourly wage of $14.25.

**Note:** Salary Information for Greater Kansas City, State, and National is based on EMSI 2016 third quarter data. JCCC information for career program completers is based on data supplied by respondents to follow-up studies and is not necessarily representative of all career program completers. Other sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics.