



| NSW Department of Education

Gardener / Landscape Construction Worker / Arborist / Nursery Worker

Gardeners are nature lovers who enjoy working outside to turn a barren piece of land into a lush outdoor space. A rewarding and healthy career, you'll plan, plant, cultivate, and maintain parks, gardens and landscapes and inspect, diagnose and treat trees and shrubs to ensure they're at their best.

What gardeners do

Gardeners keep up the important work of conserving our environment. They have a wide knowledge of plant species, know what and when to plant, and which conditions are favourable for each species. Responsible for the care of public and private parks and gardens, gardeners may be involved in plant propagation, rejuvenation projects, research into plant cultivation or designing beautiful outdoor spaces from scratch. They plant and care for trees, shrubs, flowerbeds and lawns, and may also look after spaces such as sports fields and roadside verges.

Aside from the mental benefits of gardening, gardening requires physical effort. Gardeners work outside all year round in hot, cold, wet, and windy conditions. They're often digging, watering, fertilising and weeding areas. They may also lay turf, cut grass, trim hedges, construct fencing, lay pathways and carry out concreting or brickwork.

Will I get a job?

Strong growth is predicted for this occupation in the next four years, with 7,900 new jobs in Australia, bringing the total to 77,400.

What will I earn?

\$950–\$1,100 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

You'll like this job if...

You like working alone. You prefer a deliberate pace and enjoy focusing on one task at a time. You're physically fit. You like working with your hands. You focus on the facts and details. You apply common sense to come up with practical solutions to problems. You're sensitive and cooperative. You're creative.

A day in the life...

Work as a gardener may involve these tasks:

- prepare and maintain seedbeds and growing sites
- plant trees, bushes, hedges, flowers, and bulbs
- prepare lawns by spreading top soil, planting grass and laying instant turf
- maintain planted and grassed areas
- prune trees and hedges
- install plant support and protection devices
- select materials and plants
- construct gravel and paved areas, walls, fences, pergolas, ponds, barbecues, and garden furniture
- examine trees to assess their condition and determine treatment
- lop limbs off trees and shape branches using chains and handsaws
- spray and dust plants and trees to control insects and disease.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate III in Arboriculture (AHC30816)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 91.6%*

Certificate III in Horticulture (AHC30716)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 82.5%*

Certificate III in Landscape Construction (AHC30916)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 93.8%*

Roles to look for

- Gardener
- Arborist
- Landscape construction worker
- Nursery worker
- Horticulturists

Main employing industries

- Private Gardening services
- Construction
- Local Government
- Production Nurseries
- Retail Nurseries
- Private Horticulturalist Contractors

Other jobs you may like...

- Greenkeeper

Certificate III in Parks and Gardens (AHC31016)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 95.2%*

Certificate IV in Horticulture (AHC40416)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 92.7%*

Diploma of Horticulture (AHC50416)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Graduates employed or in further study: 93.2%*



To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit education.nsw.gov.au/job-guides.

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. Career trend: 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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