

# Back to Work Program

## Green Gardener Certificate



### OVERVIEW

Green Gardener program is designed for interested individuals to develop knowledge and skills in order to pursue a career in sustainable landscaping. Participants will become certified after completing the course requirements, attending classes, and passing exams.

The Green Gardener program consists of job-focused training led by instructors with some guest lecturers. In addition to green gardener classes, students will receive customer service skills training and customized course electives to meet academic needs, as well as career counseling and job search placement assistance.

Classes will be delivered via Zoom™ video conference. Students will be assigned materials, reading, group projects and demonstrations. All class supplies are free for students; students will be loaned a Chromebook, Hotspot for Internet access and headphones. Students will receive tutoring and ESL support as needed.

Program participants will

- develop and practice applicable vocational skills
- discover and develop the secrets that make an employee irreplaceable
- develop and practice interview skills
- receive support in finding a job

### **Job Summary:**

Landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Workers typically perform a variety of tasks, which may include any combination of the following: sod

laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking, sprinkler installation, and installation of mortar less segmental concrete masonry wall units.

**Average entry level salary:** \$12.52 - \$18.40

### **MARKETABLE SKILLS**

Green Gardener courses are designed to provide program completers with the following marketable skills:

- Choose plants that provide more color and beauty with less water and less work
- Install water-efficient drip irrigation the right way
- Use compost and mulch to conserve water and improve plant health
- Manage landscape pests with least-toxic methods
- Design and install landscapes that produce less green waste
- Maintain irrigation systems so that every drop counts
  
- Choose and maintain trees for maximum benefit and minimum problems
- Manage the landscape to make the best use of rainfall
- Select and use natural fertilizers and amendments for healthy soil
- Discover tools and products that make eco-friendly landscaping easy
- Care for turf in ways that reduce water use and improve health and appearance
- Retrofit irrigation systems to reduce water usage

### **Possible Jobs:**

- Gardener
- Greenskeeper
- Grounds Maintenance Worker
- Grounds Person
- Grounds Worker
- Grounds/Maintenance Specialist
- Groundskeeper
- Landscape Specialist
- Landscape Technician
- Outside Maintenance Worker

This entry level training can lead to both employment and a jumpstart on earning an Associate degree in Environmental Horticulture.

