


 Work With  
 Living Things

# Landscape Gardener

## Other names for this job

Gardener, grounds worker

## What do landscape gardeners do?

Landscape gardeners work on gardens and yards. They make plans for gardens. They work outdoors. Their work is usually seasonal. For example, they usually work in spring, summer and fall. They may work inside greenhouses in winter.

## Meet a landscape gardener

Tom is a landscape gardener. He works for a landscaping company. Tom goes to customers' houses and businesses.

Here are things that Tom does:

- He asks his customers questions. He asks, "What kind of trees and flowers do you want in your yard?" He makes plans for their gardens and yards.
- He chooses plants, flowers and trees.
- He puts in grass, rocks, ponds and planters. He builds decks and fences.
- He takes care of the plants and trims the trees. He takes care of the grass.

For example, he puts fertilizer on it. Fertilizer is special food for plants.

- He tells customers how to care for their plants.
- He uses garden **equipment**. For example, he trims trees with clippers. He sprays trees or plants with a sprayer. Sometimes he uses machines to move dirt.





### What is Tom's work like?

Tom works outdoors most of the time. He works at different places. For example, new houses, office buildings, golf courses and parks. Sometimes Tom works inside a greenhouse. A greenhouse is for growing plants. It is made of glass.

Tom often works on his own. Tom works very hard in the spring and summer. He works many hours. In the winter, Tom works inside.

Tom stands, bends and kneels at work. He moves things that weigh over 20 kilograms (over 45 pounds). Tom uses sprays to kill insects. These sprays are very strong. Tom wears a face mask while he sprays.

### Do you want to be a landscape gardener?

- You need to be strong and healthy.
- You need to be able to work in good and bad weather.
- You must work well with customers.
- You need to be creative.  
For example, Tom has many ideas about gardens and plants. He thinks about colours and shapes.

### What education do landscape gardeners need?

- Landscape gardeners often start as general garden workers. Garden workers don't have special training. They get **instructions** from landscape gardeners.
- Landscape gardeners don't need a high school **diploma**.
- Some people take courses. They may get a **certificate** in landscaping.
- Landscape gardeners can take an **apprenticeship**. They learn on the job and take courses at a **post-secondary school**. After 4 years, they become **journeyperson** landscape gardeners.

You can ask your **career advisor** or tutor about working as a landscape gardener. You can ask about training, too.



## What can landscape gardeners do in the future?

Landscape gardeners can work in many places. They may work with landscape architects or construction companies. They often work in greenhouses, parks or garden centres, and on tree farms.

Some landscape gardeners may become **supervisors** or head gardeners.

Some landscape gardeners start their own business.

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### How much does a landscape gardener make?

A landscape gardener usually makes between \$15.00 and \$26.82 per hour.



### tip

Do you see words in **bold**?  
You can look up these words at  
[alis.alberta.ca/ERdictionary](http://alis.alberta.ca/ERdictionary).

## Other jobs to think about

**Arborists** work with trees. They plant trees. They trim or remove trees. They work with trees that have diseases.

**Market gardeners** grow fruit, vegetables and herbs. They often sell them at farmers markets. Some market gardeners make products to sell. For example, jams or pickles.

## Do you want more information?

You can find the information below at [alis.alberta.ca/occinfo](http://alis.alberta.ca/occinfo). Or you can ask your career advisor or tutor.

- [OCCinfo profile: Landscape Horticulturist](#)
- [Video: Landscape Gardener](#)
- [Easy Reading Dictionary](#)

You can also ask your career advisor or tutor about jobs that are like Landscape Gardener.

