



### Job Situation

Mostly outdoors and greenhouses. Office and shop. Work alone and co-operation. Garden machinery and tools. Some chemicals and toxics. Reporting to Owner/Managers. Regular hours, early start.

### Weekly Hours of Work

40

### Overtime

### Monthly Salary

\$1,800

### Student Loan – Owing

\$16,000

### Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$225

### Duties

Maintain healthy soil. Propagate and cultivate garden and greenhouse plants. Treat sick plants. Prepare plants for sale. Make sales. Advise customers. Maintain equipment and supplies. Keep inventories and cultivation records.

### Prospects

Supervisor or Manager. Self-employment.

### Job Title

Horticulturalist

### National Occupational Classification (NOC)

2225

### Job Description

Your day starts early because plants are early risers. Watering, weeding, and transplanting seedlings are best done in the cooler temperatures and gentle light of morning. You work your way down the rows while the dew is still sparkling on the grass and the birds sing. Mornings are also most comfortable for greenhouse work. Too much humidity in the greenhouses encourages the growth of moulds and fungi that are almost impossible to control without serious poisons.

Your job involves inventory control and other record-keeping duties. There's also a big blackboard in the tool shed that doubles as your lunchroom, where the owners leave "To Do" lists, and you all leave notes. "Check out the corner lot—cherries in bloom!" or "Watch out for the shift lever on the rototiller, it pops out. Almost broke my finger!"

Although you love outdoors work, the plants outside are hardy to local conditions and don't require the same degree of care as the houseplants and the imports like orchids and cactus. These are a challenge that you can really dig into. Close daily inspection is necessary. Seedlings that were pale little crooks just breaking the soil yesterday have two bight green seed leaves today. You are particularly nifty at moving the delicate seedlings with a popsicle stick and a tea spoon.

One of the tricks of your trade is timely planting, so that you will have plenty of poinsettias ready three weeks before Christmas, lilies on hand the week before Easter and bedding plants and vegetable seedlings by the thousands available at the first sign of spring. You deal with any customers who find their way past the little shop. Usually it's a serious gardener, looking for something special, or just soaking up the beauty of the orderly gardens and the lush greenhouses. You trade tips, secrets, and observations, and without trying too hard at all, you usually sell something.