

Plain Guide to Horticulture, Landscaping and Trees and Timber

This guide covers jobs in amenity and production horticulture, and in trees and timber. Amenity horticulture includes landscaping and landscape architecture, public and private garden maintenance, and sports turf maintenance. Production horticulture covers the growing and selling of fruit, vegetables, plants, bulbs and flowers. In 2011 there were 15,950 people employed in these industries in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Typical job titles include:

- Arboriculturalist
- Assistant gardener
- Garden centre assistant
- Garden designer
- Gardener
- Greenkeeper
- Landscaper
- Landscape architect
- Plant nursery worker
- Production horticulturalist
- Tree surgeon

MUST HAVE

Tree surgeons and arboriculturalists will need to train in operating machinery and tree climbing. Anyone using a chainsaw is required by law to hold a City and Guilds NPTC Certificate of Competence. See www.nptc.org.uk Workers in horticulture, landscaping and sports turf are increasingly expected to have high level skills and training

Around
78% of the
workforce is
male

48%
of workers in
the land-based
industries are
self-employed

The land-based
sector in Yorkshire and
the Humber is dominated
by businesses with a
workforce of **10** staff or
fewer.

Over half
of employees in
these industries are
aged **over 45**

The employers

- Commercial growers and nurseries
- Local authorities (parks and gardens)
- Private and public gardens and estates
- Landscape and gardening contractors
- Golf, football, cricket, bowls and other sports clubs/ facilities
- Landscape and gardening contractors
- Nurseries and garden centres

Pay range examples:

Gardener	£15,360-22,963*
Groundsperson	£14,165-22,557*
Horticultural manager	£22,647-29,958*
Landscape architect	£20,000-45,000 approx.**

*ASHE 2013 all full-time employees provisional

** www.prospects.ac.uk / National Careers Service

Education and training

There are openings for employees without formal qualifications, but relevant qualifications will help. Qualifications range from work-based NVQs to degrees and post-graduate courses. A range of full and part-time courses are available at local specialist providers Askham Bryan and Bishop Burton.

www.askham-bryan.ac.uk www.bishopburton.ac.uk

Royal Horticultural Society courses are available part-time at some local colleges and at Harlow Carr, the RHS garden near Harrogate. www.rhs.org.uk.

There are a range of short certificated courses such as tree climbing, using mowers, hedge trimmers or pesticides. www.lantra-awards.co.uk

The British Association of Landscape Industries offers a registration and ID card scheme for anyone who works in the land-based industry. See ROLO scheme at www.bali.org.uk

The land-based sector as a whole will need to recruit around **22,000** people in the region by 2020, in particular because of the large proportion of workers who will become eligible for retirement.

Skills and personal qualities

Like practical work working outside in all weathers
working alone or with others using tools and machinery
organizing your own work creativity
interested in plants and the environment
physically fit able to understand and work to plans
aware of health and safety good at customer care
able to market services

Future trends

The land-based sector is now expected to expand by 48,000 nationwide over the next decade. The last time forecasts were made, the sector was predicted to contract by 148,000 workers. The largest needs are expected to be for skilled tradespeople, professional and technical occupations.

There is an increasing demand for wood fuel, which is likely to have an impact on the need for skills in arboriculture and woodland management.

More information...

National Careers Service

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

See 'job profiles'

Lantra, the sector skills council:

www.lantra.co.uk

Careers information: www.growcareers.info

Royal Horticultural Society: www.rhs.org.uk

Institute of Horticulture:

www.horticulture.org.uk

Institute of Groundmanship: www.iog.org

Arboricultural Association:

www.trees.org.uk

British Association of Landscaping Industries:

www.bali.org.uk

Jobs - where to look

Local or regional papers; recruitment agencies (search in www.yell.com); Jobcentre Plus: www.direct.gov.uk/jobsearch; local authority websites or www.lgjobs.com

Specialised recruitment websites:

www.horticulturejobs.co.uk

www.growing-careers.com

www.bloominggoodjobs.com

www.ntjobs.org.uk

www.hortirecruitment.com

Further help...

National Careers Service advisers are available in your local area to provide information, advice and guidance on learning and work. See the website or call 0800 100 900.