

Grounds Keeping



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The Grounds Keeping training program is designed to meet the entry-level workforce needs of any business that employs grounds keeping, landscaping, and/or plant nursery workers.

Expectations & Requirements

While on the job, you will be expected to display the following traits at all times:

- Punctuality and dependability
 - Attention to detail and accuracy
 - Cooperation
 - Ability to actively listen
 - Capacity to communicate effectively
 - Self-control
- Use hand tools like shovels, rakes, pruning saws, saws, hedge or brush trimmers, and axes.
 - Operate vehicles or powered equipment, such as mowers, tractors, twin-axle vehicles, snow blowers, chain-saws, electric clippers, sod cutters, or pruning saws.
 - Watering lawns, trees, and plants using sprinklers, hoses, or watering cans.
 - Pruning and trimming trees, shrubs, and hedges with shears or chainsaws.
 - Mixing and applying fertilizers, herbicides, or insecticides to grass, shrubs, or trees.
 - Care for established lawns by mulching, aerating, weeding, removing thatch, or trimming around flowerbeds, walks or walls.
 - Gather and remove litter.
 - Trim or pick flowers and clean flower beds.
 - Planting seeds, bulbs, plants, trees, grass or shrubs and using mulch for protection.
 - Raking, mulching, and composting leaves.
 - Using irrigation methods to conserve water and prevent waste.
 - Maintaining sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, and other grounds features.
 - Clearing snow from walkways and spreading salt in icy areas.
 - Maintain irrigation systems, including winterizing the systems and starting them up in spring.
 - Maintaining natural turf fields by ensuring proper soil composition and drainage.
 - Haul or spread topsoil or spread straw over seeded soil to hold soil in place.

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Minimum Entrance Requirements

There are no specific academic requirements to enter the **Grounds Keeping training program**. However, there are certain physical abilities and skills that students should have. These include:

- Being able to walk, stand, bend, stoop, kneel, extend, and twist for moderate to long periods of time.
- Having the strength to lift and carry items weighing 50 pounds regularly, and 75-100 pounds occasionally .
- Able to handle different temperatures and tolerate exposure to dust, allergens, noise, and chemicals.
- Having good communication skills and vision.
- Being able to use hands, arms, prosthetics, or arm stick devices effectively.

Course Duration and Sequence

To complete the **Grounds Keeping** part of the program students should expect to spend approximately 2 months or 200 hours in training. For the **Nursery Worker** part, expect to spend about 5 months or 600 hours in training.

Please note that, with the addition of ancillary services as well as individual pace, student completion timelines will vary.

Career Options

After finishing the **Grounds Keeping training program**, students will be prepared for entry-level jobs in two main areas:

Landscaper/Grounds Keeper and **Nursery Worker**.

- As a **Landscaper/Grounds Keeper**, you'll be responsible for tasks such as watering lawns, trees, and plants using sprinklers or hoses, removing litter, pruning or trimming trees and shrubs, planting seeds and bulbs, mowing or edging lawns, shoveling snow, caring for established lawns by mulching and weeding, and maintaining flower beds, among other duties.
- If you choose to become a **Nursery Worker**, your work will involve planting, spraying, weeding, fertilizing, and watering plants, shrubs, and trees. You'll also harvest plants, clean work areas, sell and deliver plants to customers, provide advice on plant care, maintain irrigation systems, record plant information, and handle inventory, among other tasks.

All students in the Grounds Keeping training program will have the opportunity to obtain a 10-Hour **OSHA Agriculture Safety certification**.

After completing the program, you'll have various career options, including employment in schools, landscaping companies, greenhouses, hospitals, parks, and recreational areas. There are many possibilities for where you can work and apply your skills.

