

Arboricultural Consultant

JOB DESCRIPTION

ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTANTS provide technical information and advise clients on best management of tree resources, diagnosis and disorders, tree appraisal, forensic investigations, expert witness reports and testimony, protection of trees from construction injury, and other arboriculture-related recommendations, such as planning and mitigation actions for one or more trees. Tree inventory and assessments are one type of consulting assignment. In addition to consultancy on a commercial basis, employees of institutions such as state urban forestry programs are also able to provide consulting expertise in arboriculture.



Flickr Commons; Nick Booth

TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Consultants come from a wide variety of backgrounds in commercial, municipal, or utility arboriculture, or from research and education. Most consultants have acquired considerable practical and educational experience. Some come from industry or have had their own businesses.

EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- ✓ Business accounting and report writing skills
- ✓ Computer skills (word processing, databases, spread sheets)
- ✓ Diagnostic skills
- ✓ Hazard tree recognition and assessment skills
- ✓ Mapping knowledge and skills (e.g. i-Tree)
- ✓ Pest identification and control
- ✓ Protection of trees on construction sites
- ✓ Pruning principals and techniques
- ✓ Transplanting of trees
- ✓ Tree identification

EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ✓ *A Consultant Guide to Writing Effective Reports* (ASCA)
- ✓ *An Illustrated Guide to Pruning* (Gilman)
- ✓ *ANSI A300 Standards for Tree Care Operations* (or applicable national standards)
- ✓ *Arboriculture and the Law* (Merullo and Valentine)
- ✓ *Arboriculture: Integrated Management of Landscape Trees, Shrubs, and Vines* (Harris et al.)
- ✓ *Arborists' Certification Study Guide* (ISA)
- ✓ *Best Management Practices Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Diseases of Trees and Shrubs* (Sinclair and Lyon)
- ✓ *Guide for Plant Appraisal* (CTLA)
- ✓ *Tree Risk Assessment Manual* (ISA)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

Generally, arboricultural consultants have one or more college degrees in ornamental horticulture, arboriculture, forestry, or urban forestry. Several years of practical experience in the tree care industry is necessary, but climbing ability is optional.

CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

Most are ISA Certified Arborists. Many are members of the American Society of Consulting Arboriculture (ASCA) and may be ASCA Registered Consulting Arborists. ISA Board Certified Master Arborist® and ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification credentials are recommended.

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Although many arborists work as consultants while holding a position in another job classification, consultancy is often the final step in a career. Typically, an arboricultural consultant becomes an expert through education, training, and experience, generally in a broad spectrum of the tree care industry. It requires continuous study and practice to develop the high level skills necessary to work as an independent consultant.