State-Approved (Chapter 74)
Program Overview

Horticulture

Horticulture professionals enjoy the rewards of working outdoors and caring for trees and plants while beautifying our communities.

What Students Learn & Do

Students in horticulture programs spend most of their time working directly with plants and trees. In school-based greenhouses or outside the school at supervised work sites, students gain experience working with hand tools and a variety of small and large equipment used to maintain grounds, plant and tend gardens, grow crops, and care for or remove trees.

Specific topics covered in the curriculum include plant health, soil science and conservation, tree maintenance techniques, floral design, pest control, lawn care / turf management, greenhouse management, safe use of landscaping equipment, and forest management. Workplace safety is emphasized across the curriculum, as is career exploration including fundamentals of running a landscaping or other small business.

Graduates of Horticulture programs are required to meet the same high academic standards as their peers in other high school programs. These standards are set by the State of Massachusetts. This program also reinforces aspects of biology, algebra and geometry, among other areas.

Licenses & Certifications

Programs will prepare students to earn industry-recognized credentials, and typically students will be able to complete one or more before they graduate from high school. Examples:

- OSHA 10 hour - General, Construction
- First Aid/CPR/AED
- NOFA Organic Land Care Professional
- MA Certifications: Arborist, Horticulturist, Landscape Professional
- Professional Landcare Network certifications
- American Institute of Floral Designers: Certification, Accreditation

Options After High School

Here are some career options that may be available for graduates of Horticulture programs.

High School Diploma

- Landscape Construction
- Plant and Tree Care Worker
- Equipment Operator
- Grounds Crew Member

Additional Training

- Arborist
- Landscaper
- Florist
- Orchard Manager

Bachelor's Degree (4 Years of College)

- Landscape Architect
- Forester
- Soil Scientist
- Botanist
- Agricultural Engineer

Questions to ask a program you are considering

1. **What workplace experiences do you offer to students?**
2. **What are some common next steps for graduates of this program and how do you support them to get there?**

Learn about the differences between State-Approved and Local programs
http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/cvte/cte-families/state-vs-local.html

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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