

# ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTANT

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Arboricultural consultants provide objective information and advise clients on best management of tree resources, tree appraisal, forensic investigations, expert witness reports and testimony, protection of trees from construction injury, and needs and condition reports in support of planning. Tree inventory and assessments are one type of consulting assignment.

## TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Extension agent can be an entry-level position after completion of M.S. and/or Ph.D. studies. Most extension agents have, however, acquired considerable practical and educational experience. Some come from industry or have had their own businesses



## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Generally, arboricultural consultants have one or more college degree 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.

## EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- Tree identification
- Pest identification and control
- Hazard tree recognition and assessment skills
- Protection of trees on construction sites
- Computer skills using spreadsheets, word processing, and data bases
- Pruning principals and techniques
- Business accounting and other business skills
- Mapping knowledge and skills
- ANSI A300 Standards
- Transplanting of trees
- Diagnostic skills

## EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ANSI A300 Standards
- Best Management Practices series
- *Arboriculture* by Dick Harris, et al
- *ISA A Photographic Guide to the Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas*
- *ISA: Trees and Development*
- *ISA: Arboriculture and the Law*
- *ISA/ASCA: Guide to Report Writing*
- *ISA/CTLA: Guide to Plant Appraisal*
- *ISA Arborist Certification Study Guide*
- *Diseases of Trees and Shrubs*
- *Insects That Feed on Trees and Shrubs*
- *Journal of Arboriculture*

## CERTIFICATIONS/LICENSES

Most are ISA Certified Arborists. Many are ASCA members and ASCA Registered Consulting Arborists.

## 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.