

SILVICULTURE TECHNICIAN

GREEN JOB FACT SHEET



Silviculture is the practice of growing and cultivating trees. Silviculture technicians help to maintain forest health by doing site assessments, thinning stands, managing fires, engaging in reforestation, and more. They need to understand how trees grow, including how environmental conditions can affect their health.

THE BIG PICTURE

Silviculture technicians work with foresters to manage forests sustainably, by:

- Calculating the yield of trees in a plot, flagging individual trees and boundaries.
- Supervising planting to regenerate forests.
- Helping to decide how much space to give each young tree, as well as how much to prune and fertilize it.

IS THIS CAREER RIGHT FOR YOU?

Silviculture technicians need to be physically fit and comfortable using tools, machines, and operating equipment. They work in all types of weather conditions. They typically have good technical and computer skills and are experienced with GPS and GIS software. To succeed in this job, you need management, communication, and people skills to lead tree planting crews and enforce reforestation rules.

MOVING FORWARD



Here's a path of study that could lead to a career as a silviculture technician. You'll likely need vocational experience or a two-year associate degree.

HIGH SCHOOL: Focus on science, math (especially calculus), geography, and social sciences.

COLLEGE: Look for community college programs in forest technology or natural resources management that provide field experience, as well as a regulatory background pertaining to reforestation techniques.

For more about green jobs, visit www.plt.org/workingforforests

Do you enjoy being active **OUTDOORS**? Are you passionate about helping **FORESTS** thrive?

If so, this might be the perfect career for you!

SALARY

U.S. silviculture technicians can be full-time, hourly, or seasonal, with salaries ranging from \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year and average about \$40,000.

WHERE CAN YOU GROW?

A career in silviculture can include work as a forestry technician or silviculture technologist. Some possible employers:

- Federal, state, or local government agencies
- Forest industry companies
- Consulting firms

