

# Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance Labourers

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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## Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance Labourers

**[NOC 2021: 85121/ NOC 2016: 8612]**

***Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance Labourers may also be called:***

- *bulb planter*
- *cemetery worker/labourer*
- *gardening helper*
- *golf course worker*
- *greens worker/helper*
- *grass cutter*
- *maintenance worker, parks*
- *sod layer*
- *transplanter*

### 1. What Would I Do?

***Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance Labourers*** assist in the construction of landscapes and related structures. You maintain lawns, gardens, athletic fields, golf courses, cemeteries, parks, landscaped interiors and other landscaped areas.

Your duties may include:

- spread top soil; lay sod; plant flowers, grass, shrubs and trees; and perform other duties to help with the construction of a landscape and related structures

- cut, rake, fertilize and water lawns; weed gardens; prune shrubs and trees; and perform other maintenance duties as directed by supervisor
- maintain lawns and grass along roadsides
- operate and maintain power mowers, tractors, snowblowers, chain saws, electric clippers, sod cutters, pruning saws and other landscape maintenance equipment
- spray and dust trees, shrubs, lawns and gardens, as directed, to control insects and disease

More information:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance Labourers**  
<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers>
- **Career Cruising** database (Profiles for 'Gardener' & 'Landscape'). Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library <https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

## 2. Am I Suited For This Job?

***Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance Labourers should have:***

- physical strength
- interest in plants
- good design sense
- good spatial perception

***You should be:***

- physically fit
- able to work outdoors in all types of weather
- detail oriented

***Landscaping & grounds maintenance labourers*** work outdoors in various weather conditions. The work is physically demanding and can be hard on the back. You may use dangerous chemicals, such as pesticides and fertilizers.

Sources: WorkBC & Career Cruising

### 3. What Are The Wages And Benefits?

In British Columbia, the median annual salary for *Landscaping & grounds maintenance labourers* is \$41,712. Hourly wages can range from \$15.20 - \$32.31.

In BC's regions, you can expect to make:

Community/Area	Wages (\$/hour)		
	Low	Median	High
<a href="#">British Columbia</a>	15.20	20.00	30.65
<a href="#">Cariboo Region</a>	16.00	21.00	30.09
<a href="#">Kootenay Region</a>	15.20	20.00	30.65
<a href="#">Lower Mainland–Southwest Region</a>	15.20	20.00	32.31
<a href="#">North Coast Region</a>	15.20	20.00	28.00
<a href="#">Northeast Region</a>	15.20	19.00	25.55
<a href="#">Vancouver Island and Coast Region</a>	15.20	21.50	30.92

Table from Job Bank Wage Report <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-wages>

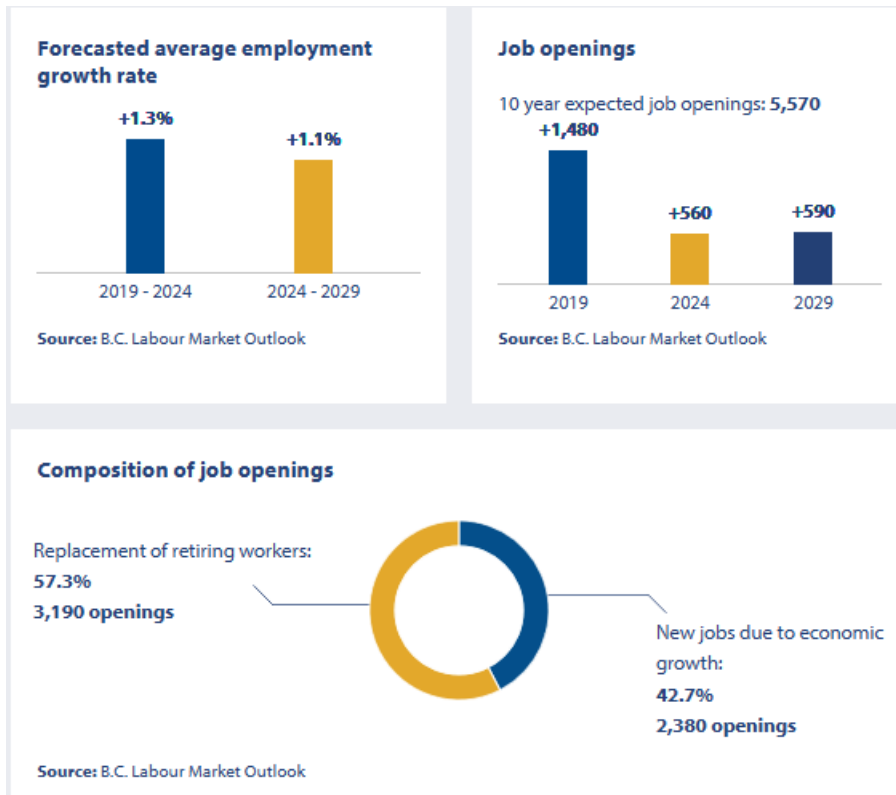
Gardeners who work for themselves have the potential to earn the most money but are more financially vulnerable when work is scarce. If you work for landscape contractors and other large companies, you have better job security but typically receive lower salaries. In most climates, gardening is seasonal; many gardeners are laid off during the winter months

Sources: WorkBC and Career Cruising

## 4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

17,900 people are currently employed as Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance Labourers in BC. It is anticipated there will be 5,570 new jobs between 2019 and 2029.

Most jobs are located in the Mainland/Southwest, Vancouver Island/Coast and Thomson Okanagan regions of BC.



Source: WorkBC

## 5. How do I become a Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance Labourer?

In BC, there is no certification required to work as a Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance Labourer. Some secondary education is required and high school graduation may be preferred by some employers.

Employers **may** require that you hold a ***Landscape [Pesticide] Applicator Certificate***.

- For information on Pesticide Certification in BC:  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/pesticides-pest-management/certification-training>

## 6. How Do I Find A Job?

### ***Where would I work?***

- *landscaping and lawn care companies*
- *golf courses*
- *cemeteries*
- *landscaping operations of public works departments and private establishments*

### **Finding Advertised Jobs**

Jobs are advertised in a variety of sources including newspapers, magazines and online job sites.

#### ***Local Newspapers***

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun* & *The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily, the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and, in *The Province* on Sundays.

### **Online Job Postings**

- **BC Landscape & Nursery Association**  
<https://bclna.com/postings/>
- **Kwantlen Polytechnic University, School of Horticulture, Job Postings**  
<https://www.kpu.ca/hort/job-board>
- **Indeed.ca**  
[https://ca.indeed.com/advanced\\_search](https://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search)  
<https://ca.indeed.com/Garden-jobs-in-Vancouver,-BC>  
<https://ca.indeed.com/Landscape-Labourer-jobs-in-Vancouver,-BC>  
<https://ca.indeed.com/Lawn-Maintenance-jobs-in-Vancouver,-BC>
- **WorkBC**  
<https://www.workbc.ca/search-and-prepare-job/find-jobs#/job-search>

### **BC Municipalities:**

Many BC cities and towns have a **Parks Department** that looks after civic parks, gardens and grounds. There may be seasonal “on call” work and sometimes permanent jobs to maintain these grounds. Go to your local city/town’s website and look for ‘Careers’ or ‘Job Postings’.

- **Complete list of BC cities and towns available at:**  
<https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/municipalities>
- examples are:
  - City of Vancouver  
<https://jobs.vancouver.ca/>
  - City of Surrey, <https://www.surrey.ca/about-surrey/jobs-careers>
  - City of Richmond, <https://www.richmond.ca/careers/ourcareers/city-opportunities/shorttermoncallseasonal.htm?PageMode=HTML>

### **Finding “Hidden Jobs”**

Many job vacancies are not advertised. The resources below will help you *with finding jobs in this “hidden” job market.*

### **Using Directories to Create a List of Potential Employers**

You can use directories to produce lists of companies that provide gardening or landscaping services. Contact them directly to find out if they’re hiring.

- **BC Landscape & Nursery Association – BCLNA**
  - **Landscapers Directory**  
<https://bclna.com/landscapers/directory/>
  - **Nurseries Directory and Retail Garden outlets**  
<https://bclna.com/retailers/directory>
- **BC Golf Course Directory**  
<https://golfinbritishcolumbia.com/bc-golf-courses/directory/>
- **BC Golf Pages.com – Vancouver area Golf Courses**  
<https://www.bcgolfpages.com/courses.php>
- **Reference Canada**  
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>

Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "gardeners" and click SEARCH. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button. \*\*You can also try searching on "landscape" or "grounds".

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

**NOTE:** You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).

## **Networking, Volunteering and Temporary Agencies**

Many positions are filled by people who have been recommended by someone they know. Networking, working as a volunteer or registering with a temporary employment agency are good ways of helping you find jobs and meet people in your industry.

### ***Networking and the Hidden Job Market:***

*When looking for work, be sure to talk to friends, relatives and neighbours. They may know someone who is hiring! Working as a volunteer, attending events, and joining clubs and associations are good ways to gain "Canadian experience." They are also good ways to meet people to learn about the local job market.*



### ***Volunteer opportunities***

- **Volunteer BC**  
<https://volunteerbc.bc.ca/>
- **GoVolunteer.ca**  
<https://govolunteer.ca/>
- **University of British Columbia – UBC - Botanical Garden**  
<https://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/about/volunteering/>
- **Goodwork.ca** (green job site)  
<https://www.goodwork.ca/volunteer> [click on 'BC']
- **Earthwise Society**, Delta, BC  
<https://www.earthwisesociety.bc.ca/get-involved/volunteer/>

*For additional tips see:*

- **Networking for Employment**  
Go to <https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/networking-for-employment>
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**  
Go to <https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/getting-canadian-work-experience>

## **7. Applying for a Job**

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your experience.

Use the library catalogue <https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

*For more information see:*

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**  
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/writing-resumes-and-cover-letters>

## 8. Where Can This Job Lead?

With the right kind of experience, you may move into other positions such as crew supervisor and with additional training may move into the job of landscape contractor.

## 9. Where Can I Find More Information?

- **BC Landscape & Nursery Association – BCLNA**  
<https://bclna.com/>
- **Green Careers Canada**  
<https://greencareerscanada.ca/>
- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**  
Go to <https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/learn-more-about-working-in-bc-and-canada>

***Questions? Please ask the Information Staff at the Central Library or telephone 604-331-3603.***

*Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <https://www.vpl.ca/siic>.*