

Tree-Planting Jobs

TREE PLANTING REQUIREMENTS

The pay is piece-work: the more you plant the more you earn. Beginners (Greeners) can start at \$100 per day. The maximum earned by experienced workers is between \$300 to \$500 per day.

The applicant should understand:

1. You are responsible for your transportation expenses to and from the company.
2. You must buy or rent your tree-planting tools from the employer, which is deducted from your daily earnings.
3. You must purchase your food from the employer. This is also deducted from your earnings.
4. You must provide your own equipment: tent, sleeping bag, steel toe boots, work gloves, mess kit, warm clothes, rain gear and other items.
5. You will be required to sign a "Worker's Agreement" – READ THIS AGREEMENT VERY CAREFULLY.

The work starts **April 1st** and usually lasts for two months. You may wish to work through June and July. The work is physically intense and repetitive.

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QUESTIONS TO ASK PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS

1. How are wages determined? (e.g. – Is it \$0.00/tree? What range of prices?) What are the deductions? (U.I.C., C.P.P., etc.) How much did the top rookie planter average last season?
2. What are the camp facilities? What does the contractor supply? What must the planter bring?
3. How much money is held back for camp costs and what expenses does this holdback cover? Is transportation provided? From/To where? Until when?
4. How long is the predicted work season? Is there other work available after planting?
5. When are "days-off"? How are advances provided? How much?
6. What type of food and food service is provided? Is there selection (vegetarian, etc.?) What volume?
7. How is wage payment made? What are the payment dates? What reductions are likely or possible for quality or over-count problems? Is there any bonus pay system? Is there a penalty for early departure?
8. Does the company require a signed contract? If so, what does this include?
9. Where is the company expecting to operate and what type of "down-time" can be expected for traveling?
10. What percentage of contracts were awarded without bidding (preferred work is usually best for planters) or in limited invitation bids?
11. Ratio of green to experienced planters. If there are lifers (professional planters) returning year after year to plant, this is a good sign.
12. How experienced are the forepeople? (Good ones have usually been around from five to twenty years.)
13. Will there be two months of spring (May-June) planting? Summer contracts? Eight weeks in spring and three weeks in summer (July) is standard.
14. Frequency of camp moves (i.e. - How much time is wasted not making money?)
15. How many planters are being hired?
16. Where are the contracts located this year, and what is ground there like?
17. If you are telephoning a company do NOT ask if they are hiring rookies.

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QUESTIONS TO EXPECT FROM A PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER

1. Why treeplant? What attracts you to this company?
2. What experiences have you had that are relevant to treeplanting?
3. Describe a typical treeplanter's day.
4. What are your options?
5. How many seasons do you plan to work for us?
6. What do you want to know about this company?