

# What are US Employers Looking for in an Entry Level Urban Forester?

We surveyed employers (municipal, county, companies and consultants) in the United States on what skills set they expect when they hired entry level urban foresters and whether their recent hires meet their expectations.

## TOP 10 VALUED SKILLS

These skills were the most important to employers:

- Tree identification
- Public relations/customer service
- Oral communication
- Tree pruning and removal techniques
- Tree planting techniques
- Professional ethics
- Written communication
- Shade and street tree species selection
- Tree assessment and risk management
- Worker safety

## MOST VALUED CREDENTIALS

★★★★★	ISA Certified Arborist
★★★★☆	Commercial pesticide applicator license
★★★★☆	ISA Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist
★★★★☆	Commercial driver's license
★★★★☆	SAF Accredited Urban Forestry Degree
★★★★☆	SAF Accredited Forestry Degree

## MOST VALUED MAJORS

★★★★★	Urban Forestry
★★★★☆	Arboriculture
★★★★☆	Forestry
★★★★☆	Horticulture
★★★★☆	Natural Resources Management
★★★★☆	Urban Planning
★★★★☆	Environmental Science

## WHERE EXPECTATIONS ARE NOT MET

These skills were highly valued but recent hires did *not* meet employer's expectations



### Managerial

- Employee supervision

### Technical

- Root management and root pruning
- Tree assessment and risk management
- Tree disorder diagnostics



### Communication

- Conflict resolution
- Public relations/customer service



Data taken from survey "What are Employers Looking for in an Urban Forester" Data were collected in 2016-17 as part of the Urban Forestry 2020 project, funded by the US Forest Service through the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council. <http://www.uf2020.frec.vt.edu/>. Send inquiries to [Gregory.Dahle@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Gregory.Dahle@mail.wvu.edu). Release date: 2017.