

PRODUCTION HORTICULTURE WORKER



Do you want to work in a diverse and essential industry that actively encourages women to participate and provides the following opportunities?

- **Develop specialized skills**
- **Contribute to feeding the nation**
- **Advance your career**
- **Flexible lifestyle**
- **Travel & see Australia**
- **Work outdoors & meet new people**
- **Learn sustainable practices**



OVERVIEW OF INDUSTRY

Horticulture is Australia's second largest rural producer with most of the products being grown for fresh or processing outlets within Australia. Horticultural exports make up approximately 13% of total value of production. Fruits dominate horticultural exports with oranges, table grapes and apples being in high demand. Asparagus is the major vegetable exported followed by carrots and cauliflowers. Macadamias, finger limes, tea tree and lemon aspen are a few of the Australian native plants to be commercialised for export. The Australian wine industry has expanded dramatically over the last 15 years and now exports wines valued at over \$AUS 2 billion.

WHAT DOES A PRODUCTION HORTICULTURAL WORKER DO?

Production horticulture is a very diverse industry which can provide an interesting and exciting career for those seeking outdoor work involving growing and harvesting fruit or vegetables. As a production worker you may be involved in any of the following activities - picking, packing, planting, storing, watering, fertilizing or transporting produce. This may take place in a variety of enterprises such as glass houses, orchards, wineries, market gardens, farms or green houses. You will need to be physically fit and have a keen eye for detail as well as interested in advancing your skills. Some roles may require you to operate specialised machinery and equipment or to advance to a team leader or production manager. This occupation also allows for travel to various locations throughout Australia as work can be seasonal which provides for a great work life balance.

“I love working as a production horticulture worker because I use sustainable practices to produce quality food to help the environment.”

For further information or advise contact

mae@agrifooditab.com.au

PRODUCTION HORTICULTURE WORKER

Selection Criteria:

The role of a production horticulture worker can be quite diverse depending on the type of operation you are employed at; some of the generic criteria include -

- *Enjoy working indoors or outdoors
- *Like working with your hands and not afraid to get dirty
- *Good eye for detail to achieve a consistent outcome
- *Physically fit and able to work long hours
- *Ability to follow written instructions and keep records
- *Able to use hand tools and operate machinery or equipment
- *Not allergic to plants or pollens
- *Team player and good communicator
- * Enjoy working with others

TASKS YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO DO

- *Operating advanced and specialised machinery
- *Assisting with crop planting and maintenance
- *Harvesting crops
- *Processing produce
- *Quality checking produce
- *Installing irrigation and drainage
- *Controlling weeds and pests
- *Constructing glasshouses and shade houses
- *Presenting produce for sale
- *Identifying and recording plant production
- *Preparing planting beds for sowing or transplanting

Training Requirements and Pathways

Entry level/SBAT traineeship qualification:

AHC20320 - Certificate II in Production Horticulture

New entries into this industry may commence in this qualification as part of a workplace induction or as a School-based traineeship option prior to commencing a traineeship in one of the three specialisations at Certificate III level.

TRAINEE qualification: -

(AHC30620) Certificate III in Production Horticulture

You may also need to obtain the following -
construction induction card (white card)

Traineeships generally take between twelve to twenty-four months to complete.

Income/opportunities/outlook

Job prospects in this industry are very high as presently, horticultural businesses are struggling to attract and retain the necessary skilled workforce; this was forecast to cost the Australian horticulture industry \$1.55 billion in lost profit in 2020 (Horticulture Australia Ltd, 2008). The situation has become even more dire since the impact of COVID in 2021-2022. The impact of skill shortages has been widely identified, including lower levels of productivity, higher production costs and loss of competitiveness, and in turn lower opportunities for economic growth. Employers are offering additional incentives to attract individuals to work in this industry making this an attractive entry level industry for unskilled workers as well as presenting opportunities for advancement for experienced staff.

Current wages:

Trainee wages are approx.: \$34,000 - \$50,000 per year plus incentives, depending on age and experience. Casual experienced production worker base wages are approx: \$28 per hour.

Production Manager jobs are advertised to be commencing at \$70,000 per year and upwards.

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