

## NURSERY PERSON



**Do you want to work in an exciting and stimulating industry that actively encourages women to apply and provides the following opportunities?**

- **develop specialized skills in production or retail nurseries**
- **run your own business**
- **advance your career**
- **negotiate flexible hours**
- **advance your education**
- **work outdoors and meet people**



### OVERVIEW OF INDUSTRY

The nursery industry operates in all states and territories of Australia, being one of the largest and most diverse plant industries in the country; it is also listed as part of the amenity horticulture industry. The industry estimates an annual gross production value of approximately \$0.9 billion (production nurseries only) will occur in 2022 across the entire supply chain. According to Plant Health Australia production nurseries supply to ornamental plant, landscape, revegetation, rehabilitation and production horticulture sectors including tree crops (e.g. fruit, berries, vines, tea tree), vegetables, forestry, herbs and cut flowers with a combined annual production value of more than \$15 billion.

### WHAT DOES A NURSERY PERSON DO

A Nursery Person can either gain employment in a retail nursery or a production nursery. Nurseries can specialise in a specific plant types or across a broad range of plant species. Knowledge and skills can include potting, selecting, mixing and monitoring growing media, matching plant needs to their best environmental conditions to achieve optimum growth. Depending on what enterprise they work at, they can propagate, plant, cultivate, grow, and maintain any of the following - bedding plants or flowering pot plants, bloomers, specialised crops trees, shrubs, groundcovers, herbs, grasses, cacti, water plants, bulbs or moss. They also implement integrated pest management practices monitor, diagnose and treat plants for pest and disease to ensure they're at their best for sale. They can work across a broad range of specialisations such as native plants, native trees, commercial flowers, turf, fruit trees, vegetables and exotic plant production to name a few. They can also work in a range of environmental situations such as broad acre farms, outdoor production, shade houses, hot houses, hydroponics systems and temperature -controlled rooms.

**“I love working as a trained nursery person because I can work with my hands, be outdoors in the fresh air and have a great work life balance”**

For further information or advise contact  
[mae@agrifooditab.com.au](mailto:mae@agrifooditab.com.au)



## NURSERY PERSON

### Selection Criteria:

The role of a nursery person can be quite diverse; the following criteria apply for most roles -

- \*Enjoy working outdoors
- \*Like working with their hands
- \*Good eye for detail
- \*Physically fit
- \*Ability to follow written instructions and keep records
- \*Able to use hand tools, machinery and equipment
- \*Not allergic to plants or pollens
- \*Team player and good communicator
- \*Have a passion for plants

### TASKS YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO DO

- \*provide in-depth plant knowledge and associated products to customers,
- \*install visual merchandising,
- \*manage customers,
- \*sell products and services,
- \*receive and dispatch nursery products,
- \*manage orders, stock inventory, purchasing, point of sale, instore promotions and marketing
- \*apply and monitor fertilisers,
- \*prepare plants for sale from detailing to sales to dispatch,
- \*applying a range of specialised production techniques to meet sale dates
- \*implement propagation and production programs,
- \*control weeds, pests and diseases,
- \*pot plants, stake and water as required
- \*customer liaison and sales

### Training Requirements and Pathways

#### Entry level/SBAT traineeship qualification:

AHC20720 - Certificate II in Nursery Operations or AHC20621 - Certificate II in Parks and Gardens.

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 two specialisations at Certificate III level.

#### TRAINEE qualification:

Depending on who you are employed with and the variety of plants they are producing you may enrol in one of the following two qualifications as a trainee -

Certificate III in Nursery Operations or (AHC31021) Certificate III in Parks and Gardens (AHC31120)

You may also need to obtain the following -

- construction induction card (white card)
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Traineeships generally take between twelve to twenty-four months to complete.

#### Income/opportunities/outlook

According to the 2021 Skills Forecast, gardening is predicted to maintain its increased popularity due to associated economic, recreational, health and environmental benefits. Further, with growing evidence that new customers plan to maintain and extend their home and community gardening, the demand for complementary skilled landscaping and nursery workers should increase.

#### Current wages:

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

Nursery Manager jobs are advertised at \$70,000 per year and upwards.

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