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SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE
SFI-00001



PLT is an initiative of SFI



MANRRS

GREEN JOB FACT SHEET

SILVICULTURE TECHNICIAN

Silviculture is the practice of growing and cultivating trees. Silviculture technicians help to maintain forest health by doing site assessments, thinning stands, managing fires, engaging in reforestation, and more. They need to understand how trees grow, including how environmental conditions can affect their health.

The Big Picture

Silviculture technicians work with foresters to manage forests sustainably, by:

- **Calculating** the yield of trees in a plot, flagging individual trees and boundaries.
- **Supervising** planting to regenerate forests.
- **Helping** to decide how much space to give each young tree, as well as how much to prune and fertilize it.

Salary

U.S. salaries range from about \$27,970 to \$60,910 per year and average about \$38,940.

Where Can You GROW?

A career in silviculture can include work as a **forestry technician or silviculture technologist**. Some possible employers:

- Federal, state, or local government agencies
- Forest industry companies
- Consulting firms

Moving Forward >>>

Here's a path of study that could lead to a career as a **silviculture technician**. You'll likely need vocational experience or a two-year associate degree.

- **HIGH SCHOOL:** Focus on science, math (especially calculus), geography, and social sciences.
- **COLLEGE:** Look for community college programs that offer an associate's degree in forest technology or natural resources management that provide field experience, as well as a regulatory background pertaining to reforestation techniques.

For more about green jobs, visit www.plt.org/workingforforests



IS THIS CAREER RIGHT FOR YOU?

DO YOU ENJOY BEING ACTIVE OUTDOORS? ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT HELPING FORESTS THRIVE?

If so, this might be the perfect career for you!

Silviculture technicians need to be physically fit and comfortable using tools, machines, and operating equipment. They work in all types of weather conditions. They typically have good technical and computer skills and are experienced with Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) software. To succeed in this job, you need management, communication, and people skills to lead tree planting crews and enforce reforestation rules.