

Description

- Read and interpret fruit growing documentation and procedures including land preparation, transplanting, plant training support systems, fertilization, crop protection, density/thinning and propagation
- Develop layout block designs and prepare, fertilize, fumigate, spray, and cultivate the land
- Transplant plants by preparing plants, staking/trellising plants, planting fruit trees, small fruit plants, vines, and protecting, irrigating and fertilizing plants
- Perform propagation procedures
- Perform harvesting and grading techniques
- Operate and maintain farm tractors and accessories, farm trucks, harvesting equipment, chain saws and power pruners, irrigation systems, packing line systems and equipment cold storage and controlled atmospheric facilities, air compressors and systems
- Perform general farm duties
- Knowledge and application of requisite health and safety acts and regulations

Personal Qualities

- You can work both inside and outside in the fresh air
- You are in good physical condition and like working hard
- You don't mind working long hours when climatic conditions permit
- You have the stamina to be on your feet all day
- You are able to bend down and straighten up frequently
- You are very safety conscious when using chemicals and powered equipment

Career Opportunities

- A fruit grower works for any establishment that grows, harvests and markets fruit for consumer consumption or processing

Educational/Training Requirements

- The minimum entry for apprenticeship is Grade 12
- Completion of a 5,520 hour apprenticeship program is required

Training Availability

Apprenticeship Training

Niagara College, Welland Campus
Welland ON
www.niagarac.on.ca

Potential Earnings

- Apprentices may start at minimum wage or according to individual farm scale, increasing towards a journeyperson's wage over time
- Wages¹ typically range from \$9.90 to \$18.61 an hour, excluding overtime, with journeypersons earning the higher end of the pay scale

Prospects For Employment

- Employment for this occupational group will be limited through 2009²
- There is a long-term trend toward a smaller number of larger farms which will result in fewer employment opportunities
- Employment opportunities are linked to the fruit growing economy and are impacted by the weather and imports

Financial Incentives

- Apprentices may be able to apply for the Tradesperson's Tools Tax Deduction

Additional Information

Ontario Federation of Agriculture
www.ofa.on.ca/site/home.asp

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/

National Occupational Classification
www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC-CNP/

Apprenticeship Subject Pathways
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/training/apprenticeship/skills/pathwaye.pdf

¹ www.labourmarketinformation.ca

² www.ontariojobfutures.ca/profile8251.html