

FORESTRY TECHNICIAN

GREEN JOB FACT SHEET



Forestry technicians gather data, monitor resource use, and inform decision-making. Their tasks vary depending on their employer's needs. On any given day, they might work on a conservation project, supervise a tree nursery, or help to coordinate fire suppression efforts. They work as part of a forest management team, often under the direction of a forester.

THE BIG PICTURE

Forestry technicians assist professional foresters in managing forest resources. They help to ensure the sustainability of forests for future generations by:

- Monitoring for harmful insects or tree diseases.
- Coordinating reforestation efforts after trees are harvested or destroyed by fire.
- Calculating sustainable yields of forest trees.

IS THIS CAREER RIGHT FOR YOU?

Forestry technicians need to know basic forest management techniques and to have experience with specific forestry tools, such as prisms, clinometers, and calipers, or geographic information system (GIS) and database programs. To succeed in this job, you need collaboration and planning skills, because you'll often be working in a team.

MOVING FORWARD

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

HIGH SCHOOL: Focus on science and math courses. Gain on-the-job experience through summer employment at the parks department, or through a work–study program or internship.

COLLEGE: Many junior and community colleges offer two-year programs leading to an associate degree in forest technology with courses in land surveying, timber cruising, forest protection, wildlife management, and logging.

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

Do you like being **OUTDOORS** and working with your **HANDS**? Are you excited by a job that is different every day?

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

SALARY

U.S. salaries range from about \$23,000 to \$51,000 per year and average about \$34,000.

WHERE CAN YOU GROW?

A career as a forestry technician can include jobs in silviculture, natural resources, maintenance, or invasive species, and work as a utility forester. Some possible employers:

- Federal and state government agencies that manage public forest lands for recreation and conservation
- Companies that manage forests for wood or paper products
- Companies in the mining, petroleum, and railroad industries

