

AGRICULTURE

NOC 8251

FRUIT GROWER-AGRICULTURE (A.C.A., non-restricted certified trade)

WORK DESCRIPTION

What would I be doing?

Fruit Growers work on fruit farms using a variety of farm equipment. They may perform some or all of the following duties:

- plant and transplant new fruit trees, grape vines, plants and canes
- cultivate the soil in a field, vineyard or orchard
- spray according to a schedule
- prune
- graft
- irrigate
- fertilize
- harvest, grade, process and pack fruit
- operate, clean and maintain packing lines, buildings and facilities

Fruit growers may carry out duties related to general farming. This includes working with and maintaining farm machinery and tools. Fruit farming is seasonal and primarily outdoors, however, in winter growers work indoors, performing related tasks, such as equipment repair. Farming is a strenuous activity and good health and physical fitness are an asset.

PLACE OF WORK

Who needs Fruit Growers?

- Fruit Farms
- Nurseries
- Teaching Institutions
- Experimental Farms

CONDITIONS OF WORK

A Fruit Grower is a non-restricted certified trade. A person need not have a valid Certificate of Qualification to work in the trade but a registration as an apprentice is recommended. A Cooperative Education student, who is not a signed apprentice, does not have to be paid. An apprentice **may** be paid wages.

SALARIES/WAGES

The salary of Fruit Growers depends on the employer, years of experience, and level of training. In unionized places the wages and conditions of work are negotiated collectively.

In the Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford area, there are no statistics on the wages of Fruit Growers.

(Next)

PROSPECTS of EMPLOYMENT in the Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford area

RATING: *good*

APPRENTICESHIP IN THE FRUIT GROWER TRADE

- takes about 4 000 to 6000 h, including 480 h of in-school training; prior education and experience may shorten the time to complete all the competencies
- a Certificate of Apprenticeship is issued upon completion of apprenticeship,
- there is no Certificate of Qualification in this trade
- Interprovincial Trade Certification (Red Seal) is **not** available.

In-School Education:

An OYAP student must be 16 years old and have completed Grade 10 (or equivalent). Otherwise, all apprenticeship applicants must successfully complete Grade 12 (O.S.S.D) or equivalent. The following competencies are valuable:

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| English, | <i>Communication and</i> |
| Mathematics, | <i>planning skills,</i> |
| Science | <i>ability to work unsupervised</i> |

OYAP students must be full-time students and those who sign apprenticeships will continue the apprenticeship curriculum in college or with an approved Training Delivery Agent.

Specific skills learned in school are: safety, trade calculations, trade communication, hand and power tools, farm machinery, basic first aid, chemical hazards and hazardous materials, Occupational Health and Safety Act

(WHMIS), Government Regulations, environmental legislation protocols.

On the Job Training

- As a high school Cooperative Education credit (towards O.S.S.D.), learning is connected to one of the school subjects.
- The Apprentices must follow a program in the **Apprenticeship Training Standards** book which is given to them in the workplace when they register. As each competency is achieved the employer signs it off.

OPPORTUNITY TO GROW

A Certificate as a journeyman is not needed to start working in the Fruit Grower trade but a registration as an apprentice is recommended. After becoming a journeyman a Fruit Grower may:

- become a supervisor
- start own business
- work in related areas or occupations.

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

- Farm Manager
- Nursery and Greenhouse Operator
- Agriculture Service Contractor

CONTACT INFORMATION

Whom should I call?

School Guidance/Co-Op
Office/Technology teacher
Apprenticeship Office 519 675 7788
London: 1 800 265 1050
Apprenticeship web: www.edu.gov.on.ca
EMOLTB web site: www.localboard.on.ca
Training Hotline: 1 800 387 5656
Union: