

# I want to be an...Arborist

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## **What do they do?**

Arborists transplant, maintain, and remove trees (or other woody plants) and are experts of arboriculture. According to International Society of Arboriculture, they are “professionals who possess the technical competence gained through experience and related training to provide for or supervise the management of trees and other woody plants in residential, commercial, and public landscapes.” In general, they examine trees and shrubs, diagnose the problem, and apply treatment options (e.g. pruning, spraying, repairing damaged areas, or injecting treatment solutions).

They can be employed by landscape designers / contractors / companies, tree care companies, nurseries, golf courses, municipalities, utility companies, provincial and national parks, and can also be self-employed.

## **How much do they make?**

The median wage in Canada for arborists is \$20.50 / hour. In the province of Ontario, the salary ranges from \$16.00 / hour to \$40.00 / hour, with the median wage at \$20.00 / hour.

## **How do I become a certified arborist?**

To be a certified arborist, you need to graduate from the apprenticeship program. In order to complete the apprenticeship program, you must become a member of the Ontario College of Trades. The apprenticeship program consists of approximately 6000 hours of training (i.e. approximately 5340 hours of on-the-job work experience, and 660 hours of in-school training), and upon completion, the Ministry

of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) will issue a Certificate of Apprenticeship to the individual. Once you pass the trade's certification examination (and meet the registration requirements), you can apply to be certified and registered as an arborist journey person.

**Useful Links:**

Ontario College of Trades – Arborist:

[https://www.collegeoftrades.ca/wp-content/uploads/TFS\\_Arborist\\_June2015.pdf.pdf](https://www.collegeoftrades.ca/wp-content/uploads/TFS_Arborist_June2015.pdf.pdf)

Humber College – Arborist Apprenticeship:

<https://appliedtechnology.humber.ca/programs/arborist-apprenticeship.html>