

**STATE OF OHIO (DAS)**CLASSIFICATION  
SPECIFICATION**CLASSIFICATION SERIES**

Plant Pest Inspection

**SERIES NUMBER**

2116

**MAJOR AGENCIES**

Agriculture

**EFFECTIVE**

12/29/2013

**SERIES PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the plant pest inspection occupation is to inspect for &amp; eradicate non native/exotic / quarantine plant pests.

**JOB TITLE**

Plant Pest Control Specialist

**JOB CODE**

21161

**PAY GRADE**

30

**EFFECTIVE**

07/01/2006

**CLASS CONCEPT:**

The full performance level class works under direction &amp; requires considerable knowledge of plant science in order to conduct inspections of nursery facilities, garden centers, green houses, retail stores, producers, wholesalers of nursery stock, horticultural crop fields, forests &amp;/or landscape in assigned territory for non native/exotic / quarantine plant pests.

<u>JOB TITLE</u>	<u>JOB CODE</u>	<u>B. U.</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>	<u>PAY GRADE</u>
Plant Pest Control Specialist	21161	07	07/01/2006	30

**JOB DUTIES IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE: (These duties are illustrative only. Incumbents may perform some or all of these duties or other job-related duties as assigned.)**

Conducts inspections of nursery facilities, garden centers, green houses, retail stores, producers, wholesalers of nursery stock, horticultural crop fields, forests &/or landscape in assigned territory for non native/exotic &/or quarantine plant pests such as Gypsy Moth, Emerald Ash Borer, Sudden Oak Death, Asian Long Beetle, Ralstonia, Hemlock Woody Adelaide, Brown Fir Beetle (e.g., determines severity of pest, effects on plant viability & corrective measures; investigates & brings into compliance all delinquent businesses through legal actions such as seizure, restriction, detection & eradication of pests; recommends whether grower's application for license should be granted, restricted or denied; inspects nursery stock & hardy plants in warehouse & retail sales areas for insect, mite, disease or environmental problems & correct labeling; inspects agricultural commodities such as logs & lumber, plant material entering international commerce for insects, mites & disease as specified by importing country & issues phyto-sanitary certificates & assists operators/owners/growers/exporters in solving problems discovered in inspections; assists & facilitates exporters in meeting plant quarantine import requirements into foreign countries; assists homeland security program by implementing federal regulations regarding quarantine/exotic pests; enforces state & federal quarantines; participates in implementation of programs such as Gypsy Moth Program/Emerald Ash Borer to eradicate, suppress & slow spread of growing invasive pest population, egg mass surveys, field surveys to determine life stages of species & aerial surveys of landscape damage; conducts environmental assessments for chemical uses; assists in coordinating activities of seasonal Gypsy Moth Trap Tenders, 99935 in statewide suppression program; marks trees for pre-cutting eradication; acts as first responder in conjunction with federal agencies for swift eradication & destruction of plant pests deemed homeland security threats).

Assists GIMS staff in providing data for use in creating maps for field use & aerial survey pest damage results; researches & completes federal phyto-sanitary forms for exporting agricultural crops; maintains documentation on post-entry quarantined plant material from foreign countries; presents speeches to specialized audiences; acts as liaison to governmental agencies such as United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection & Quarantine (PPQ), Homeland Security (HS) &/or Customs & Border Patrol (CBC).

Prepares daily, weekly & monthly reports of findings for all inspections completed; issues restrictions or stop-sale orders on defective stock; maintains & updates manuals; collects evidence for prosecution; checks for current licenses for producers & dealers.

**MAJOR WORKER CHARACTERISTICS:**

Knowledge of entomology, zoology, botany, ecology, environmental science, natural resources, plant pathology or horticulture; state & federal laws regarding plant pest inspection, quarantine & eradication\*; federal phyto-sanitary certificates, regulations & standards. Skill in use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) devices \*; personal computer/laptop & related software; magnifying glasses; collection tweezers; aerial digital sketch pads, pruners, saws; biological sampling & collection tools to maintain secure cultures & containment breeding tanks; staple guns; topographical compass; binoculars; acreage measuring device; weather sampling kits; first aid kits; slide projector; radios &/or walkie-talkies. Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts & draw valid conclusions; write meaningful, concise & accurate reports; use research methods in gathering data; gather, collate & classify information about data, people or things; stand, walk & bend to perform inspections; handle sensitive contacts with growers & dealers; cooperate with co-workers & seasonal gypsy moth trap tenders on group projects; demonstrate dexterity to use fingers/hands to expose insects; demonstrate agility to climb over & around logs piles, lumber stacks, tree limbs, briars, foliage & brush; hike up & down hills carrying back pack & supplies; demonstrate strength to lift up to 50 lbs.

(\*)Developed after employment.

**MINIMUM CLASS QUALIFICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT:**

Completion of undergraduate core program in entomology, zoology, botany, ecology, environmental science, natural resources, plant pathology or horticulture or closely related field; must be able to provide own transportation.

-Or equivalent of Minimum Class Qualifications For Employment noted above.

**TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT REQUIRED TO REMAIN IN THE CLASSIFICATION AFTER EMPLOYMENT:**

Not applicable.

**UNUSUAL WORKING CONDITIONS:**

Works outside exposed to varying weather conditions; exposed to pesticides/toxic chemicals; subject to insect stings, ticks & poison ivy; requires travel; exposed to rough terrain, hills & valleys/forests, snakes, wild dogs, allergic reactions from bacterial organisms in Gypsy Moth Caterpillar hair & fecal matter; exposed to angry/hostile landowners, marijuana growers, nursery owners, retail stores owners, producers & wholesalers of nursery stock; exposed to falls from hills / cliffs in remote areas during plant pest suppression & eradication projects.