Pesticide Handlers, Sprayers and Applicators, Vegetation

**What They Do**
Mix or apply pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or insecticides through sprays, dusts, vapors, soil incorporation or chemical application on trees, shrubs, lawns, or botanical crops. Usually requires specific training and certification.

**Is This For You?**

**Work Interests** are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland’s Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

- **Realistic (Doers)** — Prefer to work with objects, things, machines, tools, plants or animals. They have mechanical ability, enjoy being outdoors and working with their hands.

- **Conventional (Organizers)** — Detail oriented and organized. They like to analyze data, keep financial records and do research. They can be counted on to be accurate and enjoy structure and closure.

**Work Values** are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

- **Support** — Occupations that satisfy this work value offer supportive management that stands behind employees.

- **Independence** — Allow employees to work on their own and make decisions.

- **Working Conditions** — Offer job security and good working conditions.

**Abilities** reflect a person’s aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career:

- Near Vision
- Arm-Hand Steadiness
- Control Precision
- Deductive Reasoning
- Oral Comprehension
- Problem Sensitivity
- Speech Recognition
Basic Skills You Need
- Active Listening
- Critical Thinking
- Speaking
- Time Management
- Complex Problem Solving
- Coordination
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Operation and Control
- Operation Monitoring
- Reading Comprehension
- Social Perceptiveness

Education & Training
The minimum of a high school diploma is recommended, followed by on-the-job training. Training includes instruction on safety procedures, since many pesticides are hazardous.

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate
- Applied Math  3
- Workplace Documents  3
- Graphic Literacy  4

*Using the median skill level.

Workplace Examples
The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of pesticide handlers, sprayers and applicators of vegetation are:
- Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods
- Self Employment
- Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals
- Gasoline Stations

South Dakota Employment & Wages

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Workers</th>
<th>2028 Workers</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Average Annual Demand for Workers</th>
<th>Annual Median Wage</th>
<th>Annual Average Wage</th>
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<td>Workers</td>
<td>645</td>
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<td>$35,577</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Additional References
- Labor Market Information Center  
  www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic
- Career OneStop  
  www.careeronestop.org
- O*Net Online  
  www.onetonline.org
- mySkills myFuture  
  https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/

Provided By
Labor Market Information Center  
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation  
605.626.2314

Visit dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers to obtain the most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in this occupational profile.

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