Soil and Plant Scientists

What They Do
Conduct research in breeding, physiology, production, yield and management of crops and agricultural plants or trees, shrubs and nursery stock. They also research plant growth in soils and control of pests. Some study the chemical, physical, biological and mineralogical composition of soils as they relate to plant or crop growth.

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:

**Investigative (Thinkers)** — Interested in science and logic. They like to analyze, evaluate and solve problems, and enjoy learning and understanding the causes of events.

**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.

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

**Achievement** — Results oriented, allow use of strongest abilities and provide feeling of accomplishment.

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

**Recognition** — Offer advancement, potential for leadership, and are often considered prestigious.

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

- Oral Comprehension
- Written Comprehension
- Category Flexibility
- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning

Standard Occupational Code 19-1013
Basic Skills You Need

• Reading Comprehension
• Science
• Active Learning
• Complex Problem Solving
• Critical Thinking
• Speaking
• Active Listening
• Judgment and Decision Making
• Writing
• Monitoring
• Systems Analysis

Education & Training

Most employees of soil and plant scientists require the minimum of a bachelor’s degree in agriculture, agronomy, plant science, range science or a related field. Many require a master’s degree or even a doctoral degree.

South Dakota Employment & Wages

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<thead>
<tr>
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<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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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>684</td>
<td>787</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
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<td>$59,997</td>
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</tbody>
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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/

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math  6
Workplace Documents  7
Graphic Literacy  7

*Using the median skill level.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of soil and plant scientists are:

• Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
• Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods
• Educational Services
• Self Employment
• Management of Companies and Enterprises

Provided By

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

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