

# More South Dakota Hot Careers

Beyond the  
Top **30**



## High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster: Agriculture, Food and  
Natural Resources

# Soil and Plant Scientists

Standard Occupational Code 19-1013

## 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:

- Category Flexibility
- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning
- Information Ordering
- Oral Comprehension
- Oral Expression

## Basic Skills You Need

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

## Education & Training

Most employes 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

2020 Workers	2030 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
666	797	131	19.7%	90	\$58,220	\$64,310

## Additional References

### Labor Market Information Center

[www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic](http://www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic)

### Career OneStop

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

### O\*Net Online

[www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)

### mySkills myFuture

<https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. U.S. DOL funded. For details, see [dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta\\_grant.aspx](http://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta_grant.aspx).

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## 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
- Self Employment

## Provided By

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

Visit [dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers](http://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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