



## South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

**Career Cluster: Agriculture, Food,  
and Natural Resources**

# Pesticide Handlers, Sprayers and Applicators, Vegetation



*Standard Occupational Code 37-3012*

## 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
- Manual Dexterity

## Basic Skills You Need

- Active Listening
- Critical Thinking
- Speaking
- Time Management
- Complex Problem Solving
- Coordination
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Operation and Control
- Operations 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.

## South Dakota Employment & Wages

2022 Employment	2032 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
756	847	91	12.0%	110	\$43,350	\$44,450

## 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	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:

- Wholesale Trade
- Government
- Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services
- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting

## Provided By

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

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