



CAREER PATH

Natural Resources Agriculture

CAREER CLUSTER

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

CAREER PATHWAY

Plant Systems



PLANT AND SOIL SCIENTIST

Conduct research in breeding, physiology, production, yield, and management of crops and agricultural plants, their growth in soils, and control of pests; or study the chemical, physical, biological, and mineralogical composition of soils as they relate to plant or crop growth. May classify and map soils and investigate effects of alternative practices on soil and crop productivity.

Knowledge and Skills Needed

In addition to courses required for high school graduation, essential skills and knowledge needed for a career as a plant and soil scientist are reinforced by taking rigorous and relevant courses, as well as participating in work-based experiences and student organization activities.

(See the Sample Personal Plan of Study for suggested coursework, activities, and knowledge and skills to pursue in preparation of an occupation in this Career Cluster.)

Education Requirements

Occupation	Percent of Missouri employees aged 25 to 44 in the occupation whose highest level of educational attainment is:		
	High School or Less	Some College	Bachelor Degree or More
Soil and plant scientists	4.7%	16.4%	79.0%
Life scientists	2.0%	8.7%	89.3%
Life, physical, and social science	6.7%	14.3%	78.9%

Most Common Educational Level: Bachelor's degree

Note: Be sure to learn whether your occupation has a specific requirement for education or licensing. Apprenticeships are available for more than 240 occupations. Visit www.oe.doleta.gov/bat.cfm

National and State Wage Information

Location	Pay Period	2008		
		Entry*	Median	Experienced**
United States	Hourly	\$21.23	\$28.07	\$37.54
	Yearly	\$44,200	\$58,400	\$78,100
Missouri	Hourly	\$22.27	\$30.03	\$43.03
	Yearly	\$46,300	\$62,500	\$89,500

Based on (*) lower 25% and (**) upper 25% percentile of wages

National and State Employment Trends

Soil and Plant Scientist	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings*
	2008	2018		
United States	13,900	16,100	+15%	700
Missouri	250	280	+10%	10

*The estimate for Job Openings includes both turnover that results from people who leave the occupation (e.g. quit, retire, death) and new jobs that are created.

Educational Opportunities

Note: This list may not be all inclusive. For more information about Missouri schools and programs, visit www.dhe.mo.gov

College of the Ozarks

Point Lookout, MO
(417) 334-6411
www.cofo.edu

Crowder College

Neosho, MO
(417) 451-3223
www.crowder.edu

Hannibal Career and Technical Center

Hannibal, MO
(573) 221-4430
www.hannibal.tec.mo.us

Lincoln University

Jefferson City, MO
(573) 681-5000
www.lincolnu.edu

Missouri State University

Springfield, MO
(417) 836-5000
www.missouristate.edu

Missouri State University –West Plains

West Plains, MO
(417) 255-7255
www.wp.missouristate.edu

Northwest Missouri State University

Maryville, MO
(660) 562-1212
www.nwmissouri.edu

(more-over)

Southeast Missouri State University
Cape Girardeau, MO
(573) 651-2000
www.semo.edu

Truman State University
Kirksville, MO
(660) 785-4000
www.truman.edu

University of Missouri – Columbia
Columbia, MO
(573) 882-2121
www.missouri.edu

Waynesville Technical Academy
Waynesville, MO
(573) 774-6106
www.waynesville.k12.mo.us



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