

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES
CLASS SPECIFICATION

PLANT AND PESTICIDE SPECIALIST I

POSITION CODE: 32501
Effective: 10-1-96

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF WORK:

Under general supervision, performs specialized responsible functions relative to enforcing laws, rules and regulations designed for the repression, control, and elimination of insect pests, noxious weeds, and plant diseases from agricultural crops; performs specialized technical functions relating to the enforcement of laws or regulations relating to fertilizer application and apparatus, medicated feed formulation and seed production; assists in the regulation of the use and application of pesticides, fertilizer and soil conditioners within the State.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK:

1. Conducts examination of nursery and greenhouse stock for the presence of insect pests and plant diseases; assists in the identification and preparation of nursery and greenhouse stock inventories and location maps using scientific names; assists in the location of nursery stock dealers and examination of their material for compliance with the Illinois Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act.
2. Conducts cooperative surveys and control measures for plant pests not generally distributed within the State; assists in the regulation and movement of pest infested commodities and equipment.
3. Conducts investigations and reporting of pesticide related accidents and violations; assists in examining and licensing pesticide applicators and operators as provided by the Custom or Public Application of Pesticides Act; participates in the inspection, examination, and determination of damage to agricultural crops and other plants alleged to be caused by 2, 4-D or other pesticides; assists in carrying out orders of administrative superiors in regard to restriction, prohibition or controlled use of pesticides.
4. Participates in carrying out plans and programs for the control and eradication of noxious weeds under the Illinois Noxious Weed Law.
5. Inspects fertilizer facilities for compliance with laws and regulations; obtains samples of fertilizer products for laboratory analysis; participates in safety inspections of pressure vessels containing hazardous material; issues withdraw orders for products and equipment not in compliance.

PLANT AND PESTICIDE SPECIALIST I (Continued)

6. Inspects seed for compliance with state and federal statutes; assists in the examination of records for production, variety and distribution information; obtains samples utilizing USDA procedures.
7. Conducts inspections of feed facilities for compliance with the Illinois Feed Act and FDA regulations; examines drug inventories, usage and formulation to ensure compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices.
8. Performs other duties as required or assigned which are reasonably within the scope of the duties enumerated above.

DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS:

Education and Experience

Requires knowledge, skill and mental development equivalent to completion of four years of college, preferably with major courses in entomology, horticulture, botany, agronomy animal nutrition or related fields.

Requires six months professional experience in a related field or successful completion of an approved training program.

Candidates engaged in seed inspections/investigations requires ability to obtain a USDA seed investigator license

Candidates engaged in feed inspections/investigations requires ability to be commissioned by the FDA.

Requires an appropriate valid driver's license.

Knowledges, Skills and Abilities

Requires working knowledge of basic principles and practices of insect, weed and plant disease investigations and control.

Requires working knowledge of the effects of pesticides and fertilizers on plants, the environment and beneficial insects.

Requires working knowledge of industry practices and methods related to the protection and distribution of nursery stock, fertilizer, seed stock and medicated feeds.

Requires ability to establish and maintain harmonious working relationships with associates and general public.

Requires ability to compile reports and maintain records.

Requires ability to climb, lift and carry a minimum of fifty pounds of weight, work in environments with dust, work outside during all seasons, and handle products such as agri-fertilizers, chemicals and animal drugs.

Requires ability to travel and be on travel status when instructed.

Requires ability to drive for a long period of time.

Requires ability to wear protective equipment (respirators, protective clothing, etc.).