

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES
CLASS SPECIFICATION

PLANT AND PESTICIDE SPECIALIST II

POSITION CODE: 32502
Effective: 10-1-96

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF WORK:

Under general direction, performs specialized responsible work of a technical nature for the prevention, suppression and eradication of insect pests, noxious weeds, and plant diseases affecting agricultural crops in a geographical area of the State; performs complex inspections and investigations relating to fertilizer application and apparatus, medicated feed formulation and seed production; participates in the enforcement of laws and regulations designed to prevent the introduction and dissemination of insect pests, adulterated feeds, noxious weeds and seeds and plant diseases into the State; investigates and regulates the use and application of pesticides, fertilizers, and soil conditioners; may function as a lead worker and train lower level Plant and Pesticide Specialists in policies, procedures and investigations.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK:

1. Examines nursery and greenhouse stock for the presence of insect pests and plant diseases; identifies nursery and greenhouse stock by scientific names; prepares location maps of plants and plant pests for each nursery and greenhouse examined; locates nursery stock dealers and examines their materials for compliance with the Illinois Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act; advises on the use of specific control measures for plant pests; inspects and certifies plants and plant products for shipment to foreign countries.
2. Conducts cooperative surveys and control measures for plant pests not generally distributed within the State; supervises the movement of pest infested commodities and equipment.
3. Conducts and directs the investigation and reporting of pesticide related accidents and violations; conducts or coordinates the examination and licensing of pesticide applicators and operators as provided by the Custom or Public Application of Pesticide Act; conducts inspections, examinations and determinations of damage to agricultural crops and other plants alleged to be caused by 2, 4-D or other pesticides; carries out orders of administrative superiors in regard to restriction, prohibition or controlled use of pesticides.
4. Plans and administers programs for the control and eradication of noxious weeds under the Illinois Noxious Weed Law; advises local delegated officials, farmers and other interested parties in optimum methods of weed control, prevention of damage to commercial agricultural crops and related problems.
5. Conducts inspections or investigations of fertilizer facilities for compliance with laws and regulations; obtains samples of fertilizer products for laboratory analysis; conducts safety inspections of pressure vessels containing hazardous material; issues withdraw orders for products and equipment not in compliance.
6. Inspects seeds for compliance with state and federal statutes; examines records for production, variety and distribution information; obtains samples utilizing USDA procedures; conducts and directs the investigation and reporting of complaints in accordance with the Seed Arbitration Act.

PLANT AND PESTICIDE SPECIALIST II (Continued)

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; conducts and directs investigations and reports of animal drug incidents or violations.
8. May function as a lead worker and train lower level Plant and Pesticide Specialists in techniques and methods in carrying out their assigned responsibilities.
9. 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 college, preferably with major courses in entomology, horticulture, botany, agronomy, animal nutrition or related fields.

Requires two years of professional experience in field of entomology, horticulture, botany, agronomy or animal nutrition.

Candidates engaged in seed inspections/investigations requires a USDA seed investigator license.

Candidates engaged in feed inspections/investigations requires commission by the FDA. Requires an appropriate valid driver's license.

Knowledges, Skills and Abilities

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

Requires extensive knowledge of federal and state laws and regulations governing the use and application of pesticides, animal drugs, the sale and care of nursery stock and seeds, the distribution of anhydrous ammonia, and the control of noxious weeds.

Requires extensive knowledge of the principles, practices of insect, weed, and plant disease investigations and control.

Requires extensive knowledge of industry, practices and methods related to the production and distribution of nursery stock, fertilizers, seed stock and medicated feeds.

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

Requires ability to plan, assign and review the work of others.

Requires ability to prepare reports on research and technical studies relating to insects, fertilizers, seeds, plant diseases, weeds, feed, plants and pesticides.

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 agricultural fertilizers, chemicals and animal drugs.

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

Requires ability to drive a for long periods of time.

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