Horticulture Professionals What the Titles Mean

Arizona Certified Landscape Professional

A landscaper who has received certification by the Arizona Landscape Contractors Association. Requires completion of a 12 month training in 16 different content areas and passing a written and practical exam.

Contact: ALCA, 1815 West Missouri Avenue, Suite 215, Phoenix, AZ 85015, (602) 258-0126 or (877) 616-2486, http://www.azlca.com

Arizona Certified Nursery Professional

Requires one year experience working in the nursery industry and passing an exam on horticulture, landscape design, plant identification, etc.

Contact: Arizona Nursery Association, 1430 W. Broadway, A-125, Tempe, AZ 85282-1127. 480-966-1610, http://www.azna.org

Certified Arborist

An arborist has received certification by the International Society of Arboriculture. Exam on tree ID and care. Thirty hours of continuing education required every three years. Contact: International Society of Arboriculture, Post Office Box 3129, Champaign, IL, 61826-3129, (217) 355-9411, http://www.isa-arbor.com

Certified Desert Landscaper

Requires completion of the Desert Landscaper Certification program administered by the Desert Botanical Garden consisting of 30 workshops over a 10 month period which includes basic training, hands-on experience and a final comprehensive landscaping project.

Contact: Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, AZ 85008, 602-941-1225, http://www.dbg.org

Certified Irrigation Specialist

Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor (CLIA), Certified Irrigation Contractor (CIC), Certified Irrigation Designer (CID), or Certified Irrigation Manager (CIM). The four certifications listed above represent different levels of certification. A Landscape Irrigation Auditor is the beginning level, and an Irrigation Manager is the advanced level. Contact: The Irrigation Association, 8260 Willow Oaks Corp. Dr., Suite 120, Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-573-3551, http://www.irrigation.org

Certified Tree Worker

A Tree worker trained to prune and climb properly and certified by the International Society of Arboriculture. Requires an oral test on tree care and practical exam covering climbing skills. Requires 18 months of experience, continuing education is required. Contact:: Arizona Community Tree Council, Certified Tree Worker, 1616 W. Adams, Phoenix, AZ 85007. Phone Louise Wakem, 602-542-6191, 602-542-5223 fax.

Consulting Arborist

No license or certification is required. Typically a person who offers advice on tree selection and care.

Horticulturist

Anyone with a two year, four year or advanced degree in horticulture.

Landscape Architect

BS in Landscape Architecture and holds a state license with the Arizona Board of Technical Registration. Requires apprenticeship time under a licensed Landscape Architect. http://www.btr.state.az.us

Landscape Contractor

A landscape installation and maintenance contractor. Certification by the Arizona Landscape Contractors Association1815 West Missouri Avenue, Suite 215, Phoenix, AZ 85015, (602) 258-0126 or (877) 616-2486, http://www.azlca.com Testing required, Insurance required.

Landscape Designer

No license or certification is required. General knowledge of landscape design, construction and species selection is necessary. A Landscape Architect in training will often refer to them self as a Landscape Designer.

Landscaper

No license or certification is required. Typically it is a person who offers a variety of landscape services from installation to maintenance.

Master Gardener

A volunteer with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension who has completed 16 weeks of horticultural training in soils, botany, integrated pest management, plant pathology, desert-adapted plants, turf, citrus, etc., and 50 volunteer hours. Contact: UA Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341E. Broadway, Phoenix, AZ 85040, 602-470-8086, http://ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden

Pesticide Applicator Certification – Pest Control

A pesticide (herbicide, insecticide, fungicide) applicator who has been tested and certified by the Arizona Structural Pest Control Commission. Arizona law requires that anyone who applies pesticides as a part of their job must be certified. 9535 E. Doubletree Ranch Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85258-5514, 602-255-3664, http://www.sb.state.az.us

Smartscape Certified

Smartscape is a training program for nursery and landscape professionals designed to encourage consistent horticultural practices compatible with the Sonoran Desert. Participants must complete a series of eight, two and a half hour workshops. Contact: AMWUA, 4041 N. Central Avenue, Suite 900, Phoenix, AZ 85012, 602-248-8482, http://www.amwua.org