Soil and Plant Scientist (19-1013.00)

At-a-Glance Statistics

Sample Job Titles
Agronomist, Agronomy Research Manager, Agronomy Specialist, Crop Nutrition Scientist, Extension Specialist, Microbiology Soil Scientist, On-Site Soil Evaluator, Research Soil Scientist, Soil Fertility Extension Specialist, Soil Scientist

Key Tasks

- Communicate research or project results to other professionals or the public or teach related courses, seminars, or workshops.
- Conduct experiments to develop new or improved varieties of field crops, focusing on characteristics such as yield, quality, disease resistance, nutritional value, or adaptation to specific soils or climates.
- Develop new or improved methods or products for controlling or eliminating weeds, crop diseases, or insect pests.
- Provide information or recommendations to farmers or other landowners regarding ways in which they can best use land, promote plant growth, or avoid or correct problems such as erosion.
- Develop environmentally safe methods or products for controlling or eliminating weeds, crop diseases, or pests.
- Investigate soil problems or poor water quality to determine sources and effects.
- Conduct experiments investigating how soil forms, changes, or interacts with land-based ecosystems or living organisms.
- Conduct research to determine best methods of planting, spraying, cultivating, harvesting, storing, processing, or transporting horticultural products.
- Investigate responses of soils to specific management practices to determine the effects of alternative practices on the environment.
- Develop methods of conserving or managing soil that can be applied by farmers or forestry companies.

Education and Training

- Doctoral Degree: 44%
- Master’s Degree: 26%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 15%

Median Wages

- Hourly: $30.74
- Annually: $63,950

Top Industries

- Educational Services
- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

Number Employed

- 18,000 positions
- 2,200 job openings

Top Ten States for Occupational Percentage Growth

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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percentage Growth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<td>CO</td>
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