

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
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IATSE LOCAL 52

JOB DESCRIPTION – Prop Department

Job Title:	GreensPerson
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DUTIES: A GreensPerson is the member of the film crew with a green thumb who procures, places, and looks after any vegetation on the film set. Working with real or artificial landscaping, the GreensPerson works to make a lowly patch of dirt look like the Garden of Eden and a mundane Hollywood backlot look like an alien rainforest.

A GreensPerson can expect to get dirty and work hard; some consider this the dirtiest job in the film industry. You will rarely get a break during shoots and will often be among the first to arrive and the last to leave; irregular and long hours are common, as well as working in inclement weather. The duties will vary greatly depending on the budgets and requirements of productions. Expect to provide your own tools and pair of gloves.

DUTIES

First and foremost, a GreensPerson is a horticultural expert, a set dresser with a specialized skill. He or she uses that expertise to create landscapes from the ground up, to decorate interiors with plants and flowers, or to beef up lawns and gardens with extra plants to suit the requirements of the production designer and the script. The main responsibility is to obtain greenery, which can be live or artificial; after obtaining the appropriate plants, the GreensPerson then places them according to specifications; finally, the GreensPerson maintain the vegetation throughout the

shoot, making sure that it retains its appearance, color, and health so that continuity is preserved.

In preproduction, GreensPerson meets with the production designer to plan the designs and how to execute them, and do research into habitats and plant hardiness. Preproduction also includes the procurement and transportation of the vegetation itself and the necessary materials to maintain it: soil, fertilizer, tools. On location, GreensPerson take on traditional landscaping duties and “greening out,” or concealing unwanted parts of a location or studio. Sometimes they work with members of the art department to create artificial rocks, plants, trees, or flowers, as well as creating soils and forest litter and other elements present in conventional landscaping. Maintenance continues throughout the shoot, watering and feeding the plants; after shooting, the landscaping and artificial environments are dismantled. Once the plants and materials are returned to the appropriate sources, the job is done.

SKILLS AND EDUCATION

A career as a GreensPerson does not require a college degree, but it requires an extensive skill set, including a keen attention to detail, understanding of the filmmaking process, physical strength and stamina, and most of all, excellent horticultural knowledge and abilities. GreensPersons are an important part of the art department, and as such have creative skills that allow them to create extremely realistic environments with their vegetation and other materials. Collaborating with the production designer and members of the art department, from fabricators and sculptors to painters makes communication skills necessary.