



ERIC L. ADAMS
Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF CITYWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
BUREAU OF EXAMINATIONS

LOUIS A. MOLINA
Commissioner

NOTICE OF EXAMINATION

GARDENER
Exam No. 5077

(For Agencies Under the Jurisdiction of the Commissioner, DCAS Only)

WHEN TO APPLY:

From: June 4, 2025

To: June 24, 2025

APPLICATION FEE: \$68.00

If you choose to pay the application fee with a credit/debit/gift card, you will be charged a service fee of 2.00% of the payment amount. This service fee is nonrefundable.

CANDIDATES WHO DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY ARE A VETERAN, UNEMPLOYED, RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, OR SUPPLEMENTARY SECURITY INCOME, ARE ENTITLED TO A WAIVER OF THE APPLICATION FEE.

THE TEST DATE: Multiple-choice testing is expected to begin on **Wednesday, October 1, 2025.**

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR READING THIS ENTIRE NOTICE BEFORE YOU SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION.

WHAT THE JOB INVOLVES:

Gardeners, under supervision, assist in and perform tasks such as site preparation, planting, cultivating, and caring for trees, flowers, plants, shrubs, lawns and other flora; assist in and perform tasks involved in debris removal, herbicide application and the operation and maintenance of hand and power gardening tools and equipment; perform simple record keeping and prepare simple written reports; drive vehicles and operate other motorized equipment in the performance of duties. All Gardeners perform related work.

Special Working Conditions:

Gardeners will be required to work various shifts including nights, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Some of the physical activities performed by Gardeners and environmental conditions experienced are: standing, bending, kneeling and stooping for extended periods of time; climbing around and over various types of terrain; loading and unloading plants and horticulture supplies; operating mechanized equipment; and working outdoors in all kinds of weather. These tasks may be performed in City grounds and propagation facilities.

(This is a brief description of what you might do in this position and does not include all the duties of this position.)

THE SALARY:

The current minimum salary is \$50,448 per annum. This rate is subject to change.

HOW TO QUALIFY:

You may be given the test before we verify your qualifications. You are responsible for determining whether or not you meet the education and experience requirements for this examination prior to submitting your application. If you are found "Not Qualified," your application fee will not be refunded and you may not receive an Admission Notice or score. (For more information see Exam Site Admission section.)

As per Section 54(2) of the Civil Service Law, the education and certificate requirements needed to qualify must be met by June 24, 2026. The experience requirement needed to qualify must be met by June 24, 2025.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

1. One year of full-time experience in gardening work, including experience in each of the following: planting, cultivating and caring for trees, plants, shrubs and lawns; or
2. A certificate from a horticulture or botanic program containing college-level courses, such as programs offered by the New York Botanical Garden, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, etc.; or
3. A satisfactory combination of education and/or experience that is equivalent to "1" above. Thirty semester credits from an accredited college or university, at least fifteen of which must be in

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horticulture, agriculture, agronomy, plant pathology, botany, landscape design or architecture, entomology, forestry, floriculture, plant production and/or crop management, may be substituted for the one year of work experience described in “1” above.

The college or university must be accredited by regional, national, professional, or specialized agencies recognized as accrediting bodies by the U.S. Secretary of Education and by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

If you were educated outside the United States, you must have your foreign education evaluated to determine its equivalence to education obtained in the United States. This is required only if you need credit for your foreign education in this examination. For more information see the Foreign Education Evaluation Guide in the Required Information section.

During the Education and Experience Exam (EEE), you may answer questions about your experience. If your experience was on a part-time basis working less than 35 hours per week, you will need to convert your part-time experience to full-time experience using the formula below. Once you have determined your full-time experience equivalent, use this amount to answer questions about your experience.

$(\text{number of hours worked per week}/35) \times (\text{number of months worked})$

For example, if you worked at a job for 21 hours per week for 12 months, you would make the following calculation: $21/35 \times 12 = 7.2$ months.

You have until midnight Eastern time on the last day of the Application Period (June 24, 2025) to clearly specify in detail all of your relevant education and experience on your Education and Experience Test and submit it in the Online Application System (OASys). Once you submit your Education and Experience Test in OASys, you will not be permitted to submit new or additional information about your education and/or experience online.

If you do not Final Submit your Education and Experience Exam in OASys by midnight Eastern time on the last day of the Application Period (June 24, 2025), your examination will be considered incomplete, you will not receive a score, you will not be invited to subsequent portions of this examination (if applicable), and your application fee will not be refunded.

Driver License Requirement:

By the time you are appointed to this position, you must have a motor vehicle driver license valid in the State of New York. If you have moving violations, license suspension(s) or an accident record, you may be disqualified. This license must be maintained for the duration of your employment.

Residency Requirement Advisory:

Under New York City Administrative Code Section 12-120, you might need to be a resident of the City of New York within 90 days of the date you are appointed to this position. Since residency requirements vary by title, appointing agency and length of service, consult the appointing agency's personnel office at the time of the appointment interview to find out if City residency is required.

English Requirement:

You must be able to understand and be understood in English.

Proof of Identity:

Under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, you must be able to prove your identity and your right to obtain employment in the United States prior to employment with an agency under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, Department of Citywide Administrative Services.

HOW TO APPLY:

If you believe you meet the requirements in the "How to Qualify" section, apply using the Online Application System (OASys) at www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs. Follow the onscreen application instructions for electronically submitting your application, payment, and completing any required information. A unique and valid email address is required to apply online. Several internet service providers, including but not limited to Google, Yahoo!, AOL, Outlook.com, and Mail.com offer free email addresses. **All new OASys accounts require verification before a candidate can apply to ensure the accuracy of candidate information. Verification is instantaneous for most accounts and you will receive a confirmation email with instructions to activate your account. For any account creation issues, you will receive onscreen prompts to contact DCAS. This review may require up to two (2) business days to be reviewed and resolved. Please keep this information and the application period deadline in mind when creating your account.**

The following methods of payment are acceptable: major credit card, bank card associated with a bank account, or a prepaid debit card with a credit card logo which you may purchase online or at various retail outlets. If you are receiving or participating in certain forms of public assistance/benefits/programs, or are a veteran, you may qualify to have the application fee waived. For more information on eligibility for a fee waiver and documentation requirements visit the Fee Waiver FAQ on the Online Application System at: <https://a856-exams.nyc.gov/OASysWeb/faqs>. **Effective January 2020, the Online Application System is no longer supported on Windows 7 or earlier versions of Windows operating systems.**

You may come to the DCAS Computer-based Testing & Application Centers to apply for this examination online.

The centers will be open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM:

Manhattan

2 Lafayette Street
17th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Brooklyn

210 Joralemon Street
4th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Queens

118-35 Queens Boulevard
5th Floor
Forest Hills, NY 11375

Staten Island

135 Canal Street
3rd Floor
Staten Island, NY 10304

Bronx

1932 Arthur Avenue
2nd Floor
Bronx, NY 10457

The DCAS Computer-based Testing & Application Centers will be closed on Thursday, June 19, 2025.

You must complete the entire application by midnight, Eastern Time, of the last day of the application period. If you have questions about applying for this examination, you may contact DCAS via [nyc.gov/CivilServiceNowNYC](https://www1.nyc.gov/CivilServiceNowNYC) and select the applicable subject.

Special Circumstances Guide: This guide is located on the DCAS website at https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dcas/downloads/pdf/employment/pdf_c_special_circumstances_guide.pdf and available at the DCAS Computer-based Testing & Application Centers. This guide gives important information about requesting an alternate test date because of religious observance or a special test accommodation for disability, claiming Veterans' or Legacy credit, and notifying DCAS of a change in your mailing address. Follow all instructions on the Special Circumstances Guide that pertain to you when you complete your "Application for Examination."

REQUIRED INFORMATION:

1. **Application for Examination:** Follow the online instructions, including those relating to the payment of fee and, if applicable, those found in the Special Circumstances Guide.
2. **Education and Experience Exam:** Fill out all the required sections displayed onscreen (if applicable). You will have until midnight Eastern time on the last day of the Application Period (June 24, 2025) to clearly specify in detail all of your relevant education and experience on your Education and Experience Exam and submit it in the Online Application System (OASys).
3. **Foreign Education Evaluation Guide (Required only if you need credit for your foreign education to meet the education and experience requirements):** If you were educated outside the United States, you must have your foreign education evaluated to determine its equivalence to education obtained in the United States. The services that are approved to make this evaluation are listed on the Foreign Education Evaluation Guide which is located on the DCAS website at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dcas/downloads/pdf/employment/nyc-dcas-foreign-education-evaluation-guide.pdf>. When you contact the evaluation service, ask for a "**course-by-course**" evaluation (which includes a "document-by-document" evaluation) of your foreign education. You must have one of these services submit its evaluation of your foreign education directly to the Department of Citywide Administrative Services no later than eight weeks from the last day of the Application Period (June 24, 2025).

THE TEST:

The multiple-choice test will be given at a computer terminal. Your score on this test will be used to determine your place on an eligible list. You must achieve a score of at least 70% to pass the test.

The multiple-choice test is designed to assess the extent to which candidates have certain abilities determined to be important to the performance of the tasks of a **Gardener**. Task areas to be tested are as follows: Planting Activities, Maintenance Activities, Operating and Maintaining Gardening Equipment, Community Activities, Technical Activities, Training Activities, and Report Writing Activities.

The test may include questions on horticulture, plant physiology, plant identification, garden maintenance, invasive weeds, use of gardening tools and equipment, and other related areas.

The test may also include questions requiring the use of any of the following abilities:

Analytical Thinking - Analyzing information and using logic to address specific work-related issues and problems; involves the identification of problems, not implementation of solutions. **Example:** A Gardener may use this ability to examine damaged plants and referring to source material to determine the cause (i.e., insects or disease).

Attention to Detail - Being careful about detail and thorough in completing work tasks. **Example:** A Gardener may use this ability to consider and pay attention to size and sighting requirements when selecting plants with various growth rates.

Concern for Others - Acting in a manner sensitive to others' needs and feelings while being understanding and helpful on the job; showing consideration. **Example:** A Gardener may use this ability when working with interns, Summer Youth Program participants, volunteers and seasonal workers in gardening and horticultural practices.

Conflict Resolution - Negotiating with others to resolve grievances or conflicts and handle complaints by developing a constructive solution. **Example:** A Gardener may use this ability to help determine the appropriate course of action between issues that may arise among other Gardeners

Dependability - Fulfilling obligations and acting in a reliable, responsible and dependable manner. **Example:** A Gardener may use this ability to utilize and enforce proper safety techniques.

Integrity - Acting in an honest and ethical manner. **Example:** A Gardener may use this ability when completing forms and preparing reports relating to work performed.

Monitoring - Monitoring/assessing performance of oneself, other individuals or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action; overseeing the quality of performance. **Example:** A Gardener may use this ability when engaging in training and supervisory activities.

Persistence - Persisting in the face of obstacles until desired outcome is achieved; may modify goals if and when appropriate instead of giving up. **Example:** A Gardener may use this ability when needing to perform

ones job under harsh weather conditions.

Planning & Organizing - Establishing a method of execution to accomplish a specific goal over an extended period of time; determining appropriate assignments and allocation of resources. **Example:** A Gardener may use this ability for planning how a new flower bed would look if planted next to older flower beds.

Selective Attention - The ability to concentrate on a task one is doing. This ability involves concentrating while performing a boring task and not being distracted. **Example:** A Gardener may use this ability when completing specific gardening activities (i.e., pruning or trimming) in a crowded public space.

Teamwork - Developing mutual trust and cooperation while working together toward the accomplishment of a common goal or outcome. **Example:** A Gardener may use this ability for coordinating and communicating tasks needed to be done (i.e., repairs needed on gardening equipment).

Updating & Using Relevant Knowledge - Keeping up-to-date technically and applying new knowledge to the job. **Example:** A Gardener may use this ability when researching planting and maintenance guidelines when introducing new plants to the landscape.

Written Comprehension - Understanding the information and ideas presented in written sentences and paragraphs in work-related documents. **Example:** A Gardener may use this ability when needing to understand information about each plant's light requirements, watering schedule, soil preferences, and spacing guidelines.

Certain questions may need to be answered on the basis of documents or other information supplied to the candidates on the date of the multiple-choice exam.

EXAM SITE ADMISSION:

Your Admission Notice will be available on your Dashboard in OASys 14 days before the first date on which testing is expected to begin. You can print or display your Admission Notice on your phone or personal device to gain entry to the test site. Test site assignments will take your address into consideration, but nearness to your address cannot be guaranteed.

Warning: The use of electronic devices at the test site is prohibited. This includes phones, smart watches, cameras, e-cigarettes, vape pens and/or other portable media or electronic devices. Any such items brought to the test site will be placed in a Yondr pouch and magnetically sealed until after the exam event (Examination, Protest Review Session, TVB session). The use of headphones and earbuds are also prohibited. Devices with keyboards, word processing, or data recording capabilities are banned and will be placed in a Yondr pouch if brought to the testing site. If you use any of these prohibited devices, or remove them from your Yondr pouch before being authorized to do so, whether in the testing area, restroom, hallway, or other location at the test site, at any time before, during or after the exam event, your test score will be nullified, you will be disqualified from taking any civil service tests for up to five years, and your application fee will not be refunded.

You are also not permitted to use on site any medical assistive devices, including those that give notifications or alerts, or that vibrate, without the prior express written authorization of DCAS. You can contact DCAS by email at: testingaccommodations@dcas.nyc.gov.

You may not have any other person, including children, present with you while you are being processed for or taking the test, and no one may wait for you inside of a Computer-based Testing & Application Center while you are taking the test.

Required Identification: You are required to bring one (1) form of valid (non-expired) signature and photo bearing identification to the test site. The name that was used to apply for the exam must match the first and last name on the photo ID. A list of acceptable identification documents is provided below. **If you do not have an acceptable ID, you may be denied testing.** Acceptable forms of identification (bring one) are as follows: State issued driver's license, City or State issued identification card, IDNYC, US Government issued Passport, US Government issued Military Identification Card, US Government issued Alien Registration Card, Employer ID with photo, or Student ID with photo.

Leaving: You must leave the test site once you finish the test. If you leave the test site after being fingerprinted but before finishing the test, you will not be permitted to re-enter. If you disregard this instruction and re-enter the test site, you may not receive your test results, your test score may be nullified, and your application fee will not be refunded.

CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, AND/OR TELEPHONE NUMBER:

It is critical that you promptly notify DCAS of any change to your mailing address, email address and/or phone number. If we do not have your correct mailing address, email address and/or phone number, you will not receive information about your exam(s), consideration for appointment and/or important information that may require a response by a specified deadline. If you need to update your Mailing Address, Email Address, and/or Telephone Number, read below:

- City Employees - update this information in NYCAPS Employee Self-Service (ESS) at www.nyc.gov/ess
- All Others - update this information on your Profile page in the Online Application System (OASys) by logging into your OASys account and navigating to your Dashboard, then your Profile tab at www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs
- If you are unable to recall and/or no longer have access to the email address associated with your OASys account, please contact us via the following link: nyc.gov/CivilServiceNowNYC using the "Account Access, User ID, Password, or Registration Issue" subject or call (212) 669-1357 (Monday - Friday from 9 AM - 5 PM EST).

CHANGE OF NAME AND/OR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:

Use the Data Correction Form and follow all instructions for changing your name and/or social security number with DCAS. The following link will provide you with the DCAS Data Correction Form: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dcas/downloads/pdf/employment/dp148a.pdf>.

THE TEST RESULTS:

If you meet the education and experience requirements and pass the multiple-choice test, your name will be placed in final score order on an eligible list, you will be given a list number, and you will be notified by email of your test results. The eligible list determines the order by which candidates will be considered for appointment. If you meet all requirements and conditions, you will be considered for appointment if your name is reached on the eligible list. Once a list has been established, it will typically remain active for four years. To learn more about the civil service system go to: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dcas/employment/civil-service-system.page>.

If you believe that your test part was rated incorrectly, you may submit an appeal of your score to DCAS, Committee on Manifest Errors, through the Online Application System (OASys). Your appeal must give specific reasons why your score should be higher. Your appeal may result in a higher or lower rating.

To access the appeal portal of OASys, please log into your OASys account at www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs and use the following steps:

1. Navigate to the Dashboard for the Appeals tab.
2. Click the NEW APPEAL button to create and submit your appeal.
3. Select the exam from the Exam drop-down list, and
4. Select the exam part from the Exam Part drop-down list.
5. Select the reason for your appeal from the Appeal Reason drop-down list (if applicable).
6. Enter the details of your appeal by providing specific reasons why your score should be higher.

Note: You may attach up to 5 documents to support your appeal by using the attachment functionality.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Late Filing:

If you are currently provisionally employed by the City of New York, consult **your agency's Personnel Office/Human Resources** to determine the procedure for filing a late application if you meet one or more of the following conditions:

- You are provisionally employed in the title for which the examination is administered and were absent from work for at least one-half of the application period and cannot apply for reasons such as vacation, sick leave, or military duty; or
- You were appointed provisionally to the title for which the examination is administered after the application period closed but before the date on which testing is expected to begin.

Make-up Test:

You may apply for a make-up test if you cannot take the test on the regular test date(s) for any of the following reasons:

1. being ordered to military duty; or
2. compulsory attendance before a court or other public body or official having the power to compel attendance; or
3. on-the-job injury or illness caused by municipal employment where you are an officer or employee of the City; or
4. absence from the test within one week after the death of a spouse, domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law, sibling, child or child of a domestic partner where you are an officer or employee of the City; or
5. a clear error for which the Department of Citywide Administrative Services or the examining agency is responsible; or
6. a temporary disability; or
7. pregnancy, childbirth or a related medical condition.

To request a make-up test, contact Administration, Customer, and Exam Support (ACES) by email at testingaccommodations@dcas.nyc.gov, as soon as possible and include documentation of the special circumstances that caused you to miss your test.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Selective Certification for Commercial Pesticide Applicator - Category 3A License (CPL): If you have a valid Commercial Pesticide Applicator - Category 3A License issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, you may be considered for appointment to positions requiring this license through a process called Selective Certification. If you qualify for Selective Certification, you may be given preferred consideration for positions requiring this license. Follow the instructions given to you on the day of the multiple-choice test to indicate your interest in such Selective Certification. Your license will be checked by the appointing agency at the time of appointment. **If appointed through Selective Certification, this license must be maintained for the duration of your employment.**

The above Selective Certification requirement may be met at any time during the duration of the list. If you meet the Selective Certification requirement at some future date, please submit a request by contacting DCAS via the following link: nyc.gov/CivilServiceNowNYC using the "Selective Certification" subject. Please include the examination title and number, your full name, OASys Profile ID number, and the Selective Certification(s) you are requesting in your submission.

Application Receipt:

You will be emailed a receipt immediately after you have applied for the examination. If you do not receive this receipt, check "Junk", "Trash", or "Spam" folder for the primary email linked to your Online Application System (OASys) account. If you are unable to locate the email, you can view a summary of the notification email to you on your OASys Dashboard, then Notifications. If you are still unable to find the email, please email DCAS via the Contact feature available in OASys with a description of the issue and include the exam number and your profile number located on your Profile page. While on your Profile page, check that the

email addresses you provided are correct and/or updated.

PENALTY FOR MISREPRESENTATION:

Any intentional misrepresentation on the application or examination may result in disqualification, even after appointment, and may result in criminal prosecution.

The General Examination Regulations of the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) apply to this examination and are part of this Notice of Examination. They are posted at nyc.gov/dcas and copies are available at the DCAS Computer-based Testing & Application Centers.

The City of New York is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Title Code No. 81310; The Parks Operation and Maintenance Service Group.

For information about other exams, and your exam or list status, call 212-669-1357.
Internet: nyc.gov/dcas