

Landscape Contractors
Ideas for Return to Work (RTW) Duties

Depending on the various physical limitations the doctors has imposed, the injured worker can handle many jobs and types of equipment. Here are some examples:

- Install and maintain plant materials
- Prepare and grade the grounds
- Mow lawns
- Roll lawns
- Aerate and press lawns
- Plant or remove plants
- Trim shrubs, hedges and trees
- Apply pesticides and fertilizers
- Build and repair fences and walls
- Replace and repair cement, asphalt, or marble walkways, driveways, or figurines
- Install water sprays, hoses and underground sprinkler systems
- Install ornamental pools, fountains and gazebos
- Install decking
- Install underground drains
- Install landscape lighting
- Build recreational areas
- Assist with design for a large project, real estate development or shopping mall
- Clean, inventory and organize:
 - Mechanic's garage
 - Greenhouses
 - Large garages for storing equipment
 - Storage garage for pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals
- Assist in preparation of bids
- Analyze detailed plans designed for specific job sites
- Order supplies
- Assist with the scheduling of labor
- Measure sites (note slopes, drainage and existing materials)
- Assist with work estimates
- Perform preventive maintenance and equipment care
- Develop a preventive maintenance schedule for:
 - Trucks:
 - Pickups to six-wheel dump trucks
 - All-purpose trailers
 - Trailers with permanently mounted equipment
 - Truck hoists
 - Vehicles equipped with cherry pickers
 - Utility vehicles
 - Mobile equipment:
 - Bulldozers
 - Garden tractors with tilling, scraping, excavating and pesticide dispenser attachments
 - Riding mowers
 - Backhoes, skid steers and tractors (compact and utility)
 - Handheld equipment:
 - Edgers
 - Trimmers
 - Wet and dry saws
 - Power tools
 - Spraying equipment
 - Power and hand trimmers and hedgers
 - Chainsaws
 - Spades

- Picks
 - Hoes
 - Rakes
 - Tree pruning equipment
 - Other small tools and equipment
- Miscellaneous equipment:
 - Wood chippers
 - Push mowers
 - Power tillers
 - Power mulchers
 - Surveyors' equipment
 - Mechanical posthole diggers
 - Tree climbing equipment
 - Log splitters
 - Aerators
 - Trenchers
 - Chemical applicators, injectors and dusters
 - Compost shredders, chippers and spreaders
 - Drainage equipment
 - Edgers
 - Erosion control equipment
 - Portable generators
 - Golf course equipment
 - Hydro-seeding equipment
 - Irrigation equipment
 - Leaf cleaners
 - Materials-handling equipment
 - Mulching equipment
 - Pumps
 - Root feeders and pruners
 - Seeders
 - Snow removal equipment
 - Subirrigation systems
 - Wheel loaders
 - Wheelbarrows and carts
- Inventory miscellaneous supplies:
 - Dirt
 - Sand
 - Gravel
 - Decorative stones
 - Patio and/or lawn ornaments, fencing
 - Railroad ties
 - Concrete
 - Stones
 - Timber
 - Top soil, fill dirt and potting soil
 - Blasting materials
 - Brick and paving materials
 - Compost
 - Edging (poly or steel)
 - Geotextile landscape and filter fabrics
 - Holiday decorations
 - Hydroponic supplies
 - Interiorscaping supplies
 - Landscape fabrics and films
 - Landscape timbers
 - Lighting (utility and decorative)
 - Moisture markers and gauges
 - Mulch
 - Nursery supplies
 - Ornamental statue planters

- Planters (interior and exterior)
- Protective mats/liners
- Tree braces and anchors
- Tree protectors
- Wall and aggregate stone
- Inventory chemical treatments:
 - Lawn and tree fertilizers
 - Soil conditioners
 - Insecticides and pesticides
 - Herbicides
 - Aquatic plant growth control
 - Animal repellents
 - Fungicides and algaecides
 - Growth retardants and regulators
 - Rodenticides
 - Insect pest controls (internal and external)
 - Custom mixes
 - Miscellaneous soil and additives
 - Tree dressings and injection materials
- Make emergency eyewash stations available in all areas
- Inspect respiratory and ventilation equipment:
 - Age
 - Type
 - Condition
 - Supply of detergent, soap, hand cleanser and water
- Review or update material safety data sheets (MSDSs)
- Adjust chainsaws to prevent chain movement when the engine is idle
- Remove debris and clutter from chainsaws
- Assist safety officer by:
 - Monitoring job sites and facilities
 - Reporting on whether standards are being met and guidelines are being followed
 - Assisting with safety education classes
- Encourage workers to go through daily checks for ticks to protect them from exposure to Lyme disease
- Make sure workers wear safety goggles or a face shield when:
 - Pruning
 - Running string-trimmers and blowers
 - Changing mower and edger blades
- Inspect all equipment daily before operation
- Daily ensure blades, handles and guards are in place, and that all moving parts, controls and safety devices are operational
- Act as a spotter for operators of machinery with limited or obstructed views
- Maintain material-handling devices:
 - Hand trucks
 - Dollies
 - Hoists
 - Wheelbarrows with dual wheels
 - Lifting straps
- Keep workers supplied with fluids to avoid dehydration and heat exhaustion
- Provide tarps for protection from rain
- Sweep floors or vacuum
- Replace worn, torn or loose floor coverings
- Have a qualified electrician repair or replace frayed or loose wiring on equipment
- Provide first aid stations at job sites