

Key Provisions of the Arborist Law

No person shall advertise, solicit or contract to practice arboriculture within this state at any time without a license. (CGS Sec. 23-61b(a))

The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall require the applicant to show that he possesses adequate knowledge of arboriculture. (CGS Sec. 23-61b(b))

“Arboriculture” means any work done for hire to improve the condition of fruit, shade or ornamental trees. (CGS Sec. 23-61a(a))

There shall be in the Department of Environmental Protection a State Tree Protection Examining Board. (CGS Sec. 23-61a(b))

The Commissioner of Environmental Protection, with the advice and assistance of the Board, may adopt such regulations as are necessary for the purpose of giving examinations, issuing and renewing licenses, inspection of work or revocation of licenses (CGS Sec. 23-61a(e))

The Law also sets the penalties to be assessed against individuals, licensed or unlicensed, who practice arboriculture improperly.

***The Arborist License
allows standards to
be set for proper
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The Arborist Law

In 1919, the Connecticut General Assembly passed the original Arborist Law. This was the first law in the country requiring that those who practice tree care be licensed. This law was passed in order to protect trees and to protect property owners from the poor work and harmful practices that were likely to result from inexperienced, unknowledgeable or outright deceitful tree workers.

The Arborist Law applies to those who ‘advertise, solicit or contract’ to do arboriculture. It does not apply to those who remove trees, nor does it apply to individuals who work as employees on their employer’s property. Also, individuals who work under the supervision of a licensed arborist do not need to be licensed themselves.

However, if as part of your business you are diagnosing tree problems for a property owner, selling tree work or supervising the performance of tree work, chances are you need an Arborist License.

If so, you should contact the CT Department of Environmental Protection to learn more.



***In Connecticut,
if you practice
commercial
tree care,***



***you must have
an
Arborist
License!***

The Purpose of the Arborist Law

The Arborist Law allows standards to be set for proper tree care in Connecticut. The Law does this by establishing the Tree Protection Examining Board within the Department of Environmental Protection. This Board recommends to DEP the standards for tree care, and works with DEP in producing and administering the Arborist Licensing Exam.

No one can receive their license until they have passed this exam, which is given in three parts. The first part is the written test, given directly by the DEP. The second part is the tree identification test, and the third part is the oral exam. Both the tree ID test and the oral exam are given by the Tree Protection Examining Board.

The Arborist Law also allows the DEP to pursue legal action against individuals who fail to follow the law, either by practicing arboriculture without a license or by abusing an Arborist License they have already received.

The penalty for practicing arboriculture without a license is set at a minimum of \$1,000 per day, and can be up to \$2,500 a day depending on the nature of the violation.

This flyer has been produced by the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, 58 Old Post Road, PO Box 356, Northford, CT 06472. Please contact CTPA with any questions or comments.

What is Arboriculture?

As defined by the Arborist Law, arboriculture refers to work done for hire on individual trees, for the purpose of improving the condition of those trees. The law specifically cites pruning, bracing, fertilizing, and protecting trees from insects and diseases through the application of pesticides as examples of arboriculture.

The law does not set any height limit as to when the law applies. However, the law clearly excludes situations where the trees are being removed and situations where the work is being done by an employee on the employer's property. In those cases, one does not need an Arborist License.

You also do not need an Arborist License if the work you are doing is being supervised by a licensed arborist. However, it is generally understood that the person doing the supervising will also be the person who is responsible for 'advertising, soliciting or contracting' to do the work in the first place.

In other words, the person who diagnoses the condition of the tree and convinces the customer that the work should be done has a responsibility for seeing that it is done correctly, and so needs an Arborist License.



Where to Go for More Information

If you are interested in more information about the Arborist License, or if you wish to pursue the license for yourself, you should contact the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Pesticide Program, located at 79 Elm Street in Hartford. Their phone number is (860) 424-3369. Ask for the Arborist Packet.

Courses are available for individuals who wish to learn more about arboriculture or who seek assistance in preparing for the Arborist Exam. These courses are given in New Haven by the Connecticut Tree Protective Association and in Stamford by the Bartlett Arboretum. In each case, the courses are multi-week in length, and are held in the evening. The CTPA may be reached at (203) 484-2512, while the Bartlett Arboretum may be reached at (203) 322-6971.

The Connecticut Tree Protective Association also has a web site with material on becoming an arborist. This web site is located at:

www.CTPA.org

Connecticut has long been a leader in advancing the care of its trees. The Arborist Law has helped make this so. This Law has the strong support of Arborists and others concerned about what is best for trees.