

# Agricultural Technologists & Technicians

An employment guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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## Agricultural Technologists & Technicians (NOC 2123)

***Agricultural Technologists & Technicians may also be called:***

- *agrolgy technician*
- *plant breeding technician*
- *seed technologist*
- *biological technologist*
- *biological technician*
- *botanical technician*

### 1. What Would I Do?

***Agricultural Technologists & Technicians*** use their knowledge of agriculture to help farmers run their businesses, finding the most efficient ways to work their land.

*As an Agricultural Technologist or Technician, your duties can include:*

- providing information and advice to farmers about their businesses
- selecting crops based on soil conditions
- studying weed control
- helping farmers pick the right livestock
- conducting lab tests and take field samples

Agricultural Technologists & Technicians often specialize in food, plant, soil, or animal technology.

More information:

- *WorkBC Career Profile for Biological technologists and technicians including Agricultural Technologists / Technicians (NOC 2221)*  
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2221>
- *WorkBC Career Profile for Agricultural representatives, consultants and specialists (NOC 2123)*  
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2123>
- *Career Cruising database (Profile for 'Agricultural Tech').*  
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>  
Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

## 2. Am I Suited For This Job?

***Agricultural Technologists & Technicians should be:***

- *able to make precise observations*
- *able to draw conclusions from data*
- *able to communicate technical information clearly and accurately*
- *flexible and versatile, particularly for field work -*
- *able to work independently but also work well as part of a team*

***Agricultural Technologists & Technicians should have:***

- *good writing skills*
- *communication skills*
- *research skills*
- *an interest in natural processes*

***Agricultural Technologists & Technicians*** may work outdoors at farms or research stations, or indoors in offices. Outdoor farm work can be physically demanding and may require long hours, often starting early in the morning

## 3. What Are The Wages And Benefits?

In British Columbia, the average ***median*** salary for ***Agricultural Technologists & Technicians*** ranges from \$55,394 to \$74,081. JobBank Canada provides the

## Agricultural Technologists & Technicians

### *An employment guide for newcomers to British Columbia*

following hourly wages in BC's regions for *Biological Technologists and Technicians* including *Agricultural Technologists & Technicians*:

#### Hourly Wages - Biological Technologists & Technicians including Agricultural Technologists/Technicians NOC 2221

Location	Wage (\$/hr)		
	Low	Median	High
<b>British Columbia</b>	13.84	26.56	38.70
<a href="#">Cariboo Region</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">Kootenay Region</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">Lower Mainland - Southwest Region</a>	12.69	26.93	44.86
<a href="#">Nechako Region</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">North Coast Region</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">Northeast Region</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">Thompson--Okanagan Region</a>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">Vancouver Island and Coast Region</a>	12.80	23.52	34.86

Source: Job Bank Canada <http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/explorecareers.do>

#### Hourly Wages - Agricultural representatives, consultants and specialists (NOC 2123)

Location	Wage (\$/hr)		
	Low	Median	High
<b>British Columbia</b>	10.85	35.52	42.75

Source: <http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/explorecareers.do>

Many agricultural techs start on a seasonal or part-time basis and are paid an hourly wage. If they progress to full-time work, they usually receive a salary. Full-time agricultural techs often receive benefits, such as dental plans, paid vacation time, and paid sick days.

Sources:

- *WorkBC Career Profile for Biological technologists and technicians including Agricultural Technologists / Technicians (NOC 2221)*  
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2221>
- *WorkBC Career Profile for Agricultural representatives, consultants and specialists (NOC 2123)*  
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2123>
- *Career Cruising* database (Profile for 'Agricultural Tech').  
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>  
Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

## 4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

JobBank Canada reports that for the 2016-2018 period, the employment outlook is expected to be limited for Biological technologists and technicians including agricultural technologists/technicians (NOC 2221) in British Columbia.

### Employment Outlook for Biological technologists and technicians including Agricultural Technologists / Technicians (NOC 2221)

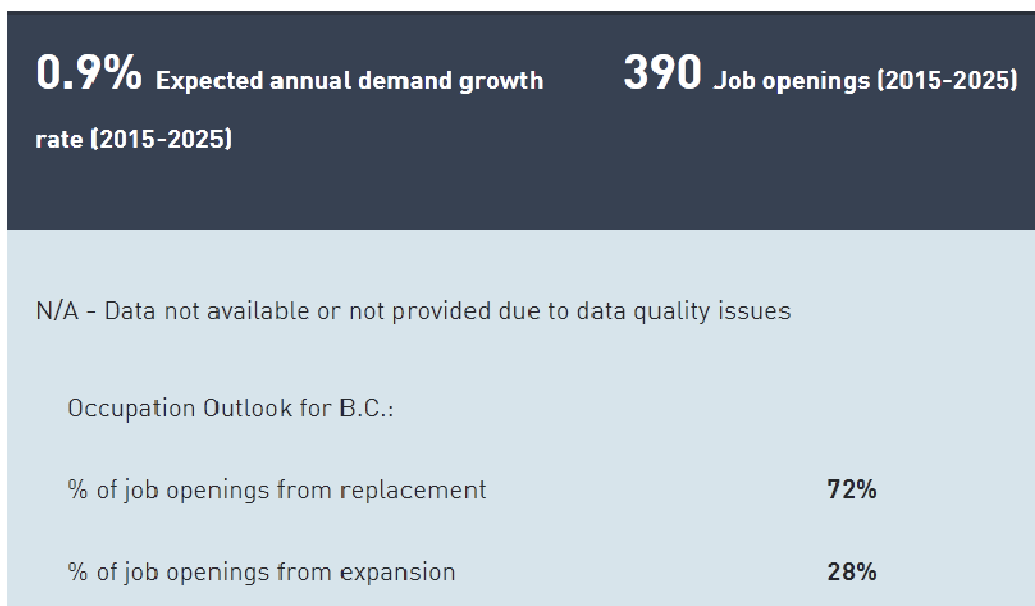


Chart: <https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2221>

## Employment Outlook - Agricultural Representatives, consultants & specialists NOC 2123

**1.5%** Expected annual demand growth  
rate (2015-2025)

**120** Job openings (2015-2025)

N/A - Data not available or not provided due to data quality issues

Occupation Outlook for B.C.:

% of job openings from replacement **69%**

% of job openings from expansion **31%**

Chart: <https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/72123>

Source:

- Job Bank Canada: [http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/job\\_search.do](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/job_search.do)

## 5. How do I become an Agricultural Technologist or Technician?

In B.C., agricultural technologists & technicians are not regulated. Some form of post secondary education is usually required and many agricultural technologists & technicians earn a diploma in agricultural technology or a related field, such as agribusiness or general agriculture. Agricultural diploma programs typically include biology, agricultural technology and business, and crop and livestock management.

### Certification as Technologists/Technicians:

Although certification is not required, it can provide better employment opportunities. In British Columbia, the Applied Science Technologists and

Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC) ([www.asttbc.org](http://www.asttbc.org)) is responsible for certification as an Applied Science Technologist (AScT) **OR** Certified Technician (CTech) in Agricultural Technology. Minimum requirements include:

- for AScT: Diploma of Technology (2 or 3 years) from a nationally accredited program or equivalent
- for CTech: Certificate (1 or 2 years) from a nationally accredited program or equivalent.
- for AScT **OR** CTech: two years of related work experience, with at least one year at the level of certification sought

**Internationally trained professionals (technologists and technicians)** may be eligible for 'Provisional Membership'. If you meet the current educational and experience requirements but lack **one year's relevant Canadian work experience**, you may be eligible for 'Provisional Membership' as an AScT or a CTech. This membership is contingent on completion of the one year required work experience demonstrating Canadian standards and competencies. For further information, see:

- Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)  
<http://www.asttbc.org/>
  - Basic requirements for certification:  
[http://www.asttbc.org/registration/technologists/how\\_to\\_apply.php](http://www.asttbc.org/registration/technologists/how_to_apply.php)
  - Provisional Membership for *Internationally Trained Professionals*:  
[www.asttbc.org/registration/itp/](http://www.asttbc.org/registration/itp/)

### **Certification as Dairy Production Technicians**

Certification is available from the BC Industry Training Authority (ITA) (<http://www.itabc.ca>) as dairy production technicians. If you have significant work experience in a trade but have never been certified in Canada, you may **also apply to challenge the certification**.

For further information, see:

<http://www.itabc.ca/program/dairy-production-technician-1>  
<http://www.itabc.ca/program/dairy-production-technician-2>

Sources:

- *WorkBC Career Profile for Biological technologists and technicians including Agricultural Technologists / Technicians (NOC 2221)*  
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2221>
- *WorkBC Career Profile for Agricultural representatives, consultants and specialists (NOC 2123)*  
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2123>
- *Career Cruising database (Profile for 'Agricultural Tech').*  
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

## 6. How Do I Find A Job?

### ***Where would I work?***

***Agricultural Technologists & Technicians work in:***

- *laboratory and field settings*

***You may work for:***

- *government*
- *food processing plants*
- *fertilizers, chemicals, biotechnology companies*
- *health, research and educational institutions*
- *farm machinery companies*

### ***Finding Advertised Jobs***

Jobs are advertised in a variety of sources including newspapers, magazines and online job sites.

#### ***Local Newspapers***

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun* & *The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily, the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and, in *The Province* on Sundays.

#### ***Job White Pages***



## **JOB Freeway.com**

<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/jobfreewaycom>

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

*Access at VPL locations only*

## **Online Job Postings**

- **AgCall Human Resources**  
<http://www.agcallhr.com/Default.aspx>
- **Agricultural Labour Pool**  
<http://agri-labourpool.com/jobpostings.aspx>
- **Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC)**  
<http://www.aic.ca/Careers/index.cfm>
- **Vancouver Urban Farming Society**  
<http://www.urbanfarmers.ca/participate/jobs/>
- **Indeed.ca**  
<http://ca.indeed.com/Agriculture-jobs-in-British-Columbia>
- **Neuvoo**  
<http://neuvoo.ca/en>
- **WorkBC**  
<https://www.workbc.ca/JobSeekers/SearchResults.aspx>
- **BC Jobs.ca**  
<https://www.bcjobs.ca/>

## ***Finding “Hidden Jobs”***

Many job vacancies are not advertised. The resources below will help you *with finding jobs in this “hidden” job market.*

## ***Using Directories to Create a List of Potential Employers***

You can use directories to produce lists of employers in this industry. Contact them directly to find out if they’re hiring.

- **BC Provincial Industry Contacts**

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/industry-contacts>

list of provincial agricultural and producer associations, covering farm animals (beef cattle, hogs, sheep), dairy products, grain crops, fruit & berries, grapes, poultry & eggs, organics, vegetables & greenhouse

- **BC Agriculture Council**

<https://www.bcac.bc.ca/member-associations>

30 member associations, each representing a sector of producers or growers within BC's agricultural industry

- **Fraser Valley Farm Direct Marketing Association**

<http://www.bcfarmfresh.com/farms/> (over 80 farms in Fraser Valley)

- **Canadian Poultry & Egg Processors Council – Members List**

<http://www.cpepc.ca/>

click on any of the five categories to view members: chicken processors, turkey processors, egg graders, egg processors, Canadian hatchery

- **Reference Canada**

<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>

Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "agricultural" OR "farm" and click LOOKUP. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button.

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

**NOTE:** *You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).*

## ***Networking, Volunteering and Temporary Agencies***

Many positions are filled by people who have been recommended by someone they know. Networking, working as a volunteer or registering with a temporary employment agency are good ways of helping you find jobs and meet people in your industry.

***Networking and the Hidden Job Market:***

*When looking for work, be sure to talk to friends, relatives and neighbours. They may know someone who is hiring! Working as a volunteer, attending events, and joining clubs and associations are good ways to gain "Canadian experience." They are also good ways to meet people to learn about the local job market.*

***Volunteer opportunities***

- **Volunteer BC**  
<http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/>
- **GoVolunteer.ca**  
<http://govolunteer.ca/>
- **Sharing Farm Society** (Richmond)  
<http://www.sharingfarm.ca/>
- **UBC Farm** (Centre for Sustainable Food Systems)  
<http://ubcfarm.ubc.ca/community/volunteer-program/>
- **Landed Learning** (Intergenerational Landed Learning on the Farm Project)  
<http://landedlearning.educ.ubc.ca/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-with-us/>
- **City of Surrey, Historic Stewart Farm Volunteers**  
<http://www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/2875.aspx>  
<http://www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/2879.aspx> (volunteer as education assistants at Stewart Farm)
- **Vancouver Urban Farming Society**  
<http://www.urbanfarmers.ca/participate/jobs/>
- **Foodwork.ca** (local & sustainable food jobs)  
<http://www.foodwork.ca/volunteer>
- **Goodwork.ca** (green job site)  
<http://www.goodwork.ca/volunteer>

- **Maplewood Farm** (North Vancouver)  
<http://maplewoodfarm.bc.ca/about-us/volunteer/>
- **BC Association of Agricultural Fairs & Exhibitions** – Member List  
<http://www.bcfairs.ca/fair/list> (local fairs in your area may accept volunteers)
- **4-H British Columbia** – agriculture based youth development program  
<http://www.bc4h.bc.ca/aboutus/getinvolved?highlight=volunteer>
  
- **Networking for Employment**  
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>  
[Search Networking for Employment]
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**  
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>  
[Search Getting Canadian Work Experience]

## 7. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your experience. Use the library catalogue, <http://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

*For more information see:*

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**  
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>  
[Search Writing Resumes and Cover Letters]

## 8. Where Can This Job Lead?

Agricultural technologists & technicians may start by helping other technical staff prepare, manage, and harvest plots; making observations and assessments on crops/studies. With experience they may work up to managing and supervising a team of research assistants; coordinating and carrying out research projects.

Source:

- *Career Cruising* database (Profile for 'Agricultural Tech').  
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>  
Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

## 9. Where Can I Find More Information?

- **Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)** <http://www.asttbc.org/>
- **AgriDigest.com**  
<http://agridigest.com/> (Canadian journal of issues and events in agriculture dedicated to agricultural initiative and innovation)
- **BC Agriculture Council**  
<https://www.bcac.bc.ca/>  
represents over 14,000 BC farmers and ranchers and thirty farm sector associations from all regions of the province.
- **Province of BC – Agriculture & Seafood Resources**  
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood>  
(information on BC's agriculture business & economy, animals & crops, agricultural regions and more)
- **Fastest Growing Industries: Agrifoods**  
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>  
[Search 'Agrifoods']
- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**  
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>  
[Search Learn More About Working in BC and Canada]

***Questions? Please ask the Information Staff at the Central Library or telephone 604-331-3603.***

*Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/>.*