



SPECIALTY CROP MANAGER

WHAT IS IT?

A crop manager is someone that oversees all aspects of a crop farm throughout the year. This includes managing a staff team, planning harvest or pesticide application, paying attention to local regulations, and more. Crop managers wear many hats! They might be working with a team one day and spend the next day alone. A specialty crop manager specifically works with fruits, vegetables, or tree nuts that produce fruit. Apples, lavender, and Christmas trees are a few specialty crops in Iowa that need a specialty crop manager.

CHARACTERISTICS

- Ambitious
- Independent Worker
- Problem Solver
- Flexible
- Team Player

GET A HEAD START

- Visit a vineyard or orchard
- Take a horticulture class
- Work on a farm
- Take science classes
- Ask a mentor questions

OTHER TYPES OF SPECIALTY CROPS AND HOW THEY ARE MANAGED



The primary duties of an apple orchard manager include overseeing any additional orchard staff, managing irrigation,

pesticides, and schedules, creating and keeping the orchard budget, keeping up with environmental regulations, and more. While not all orchard manager jobs require secondary education, having a degree in agricultural and/or horticultural science is recommended.



Being a Christmas tree farm manager is a full-time, year-round job. The Christmas tree farm manager's primary responsibilities include hiring, training, and managing the rest of the tree farm staff, managing the day-to-day operations of the farm, and delivering any educational programs open to the public.

LEARN ABOUT A GRAPE CROP MANAGER



Paula Davis is a vineyard manager in Madrid, Iowa. She has worked with grapes for seven years and currently manages 80 acres. Watch the video to learn more about Paula's story.