

Tree Expert Licensing Annual Report

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Natural Resources Article § 5-419(c)

Department of Natural Resources

March 2026

Introduction

Maryland's tree expert licensing laws seek to ensure that tree work in our state is led by individuals with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide high-quality, scientifically sound care for trees to provide consumer confidence, safe working conditions, and better cared-for trees. By providing safe, quality tree care services for the people of Maryland, these laws reduce the amount of damage caused by trees in storms, increase property values, more effectively clean our air, and cool our communities.

This report includes the annual facts and figures required by Natural Resources Article § 5-419(d) (Tree Expert Licensing Laws), namely:

- 1) The number of licenses issued;
- 2) The program receipts; and,
- 3) The program expenses for each fiscal year (1957, art 66C, sec. 405; 1973, 1st Sp. Sess., ch. 4, sec. 1.)

1. Number of Licenses Issued

At the end of the 2024 calendar year, 659 licenses were renewed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for a total of 1,359 Licensed Tree Experts (LTEs). Licenses are renewed every two years — odd in odd-numbered years, even in even-numbered years. The Department also issued 92 new licenses during the fiscal year.

Thirty tree care workers were not eligible to renew their licenses because they did not obtain the required continuing education credits and/or were ineligible to renew due to outstanding issues with the Comptroller's Office.

The Department continues to notice an improvement in the number of individuals who renew or retake the exam in the following years. Most notably, the number of LTEs that did not renew is 50% lower than the previous year. Additionally, 12 of the 92 new LTEs passed the exam using the DNR interpreter assistance program.

2. Program Receipts

Revenues posted to Source Code 5340, Tree Expert Licenses: **\$18,564.78**.

Please note revenue sources include examination fees and license renewal fees.

3. Program Expenses

An Administrative Specialist (Grade 12, Step 22) 40% of time: **\$38,589.21** (Salary & Fringe)

Program expenses: **\$2,313.13**

Total: \$41,941.00

Please note that Program Supervisor salary and investigative enforcement costs from the Maryland Forest Service and Natural Resources Police are not included in these figures.