

THE WORLD OF DENDROLOGISTS

Dendrologists study trees and other plants that have woody trunks, roots, branches, and leaves. Did you know that all trees are plants, but not all plants are trees?

*Dendrologist
(den-DROH-luh-jist)*



*Dendrologists usually carry **notebooks** to make notes about the trees they find. They often have different tools to measure trees with too!*



WHAT DO DENDROLOGISTS DO?

A dendrologist's work is really interesting because there is always a chance of making new discoveries.



FIELDWORK

You won't be surprised that studying woody plants means dendrologists spend a lot of time outside! In their fieldwork, they look to identify new plants and trees. That could take them anywhere from deep in the rainforest, to out and about in a forest or woods nearby. They take samples and measurements and may also **survey** an area of forest or woods to report what needs to be done to keep trees healthy and encourage more to grow.

LAB WORK

Once all of the information has been gathered and samples have been taken, dendrologists can examine their findings more closely in a lab. With modern lab equipment, dendrologists can work out lots of things about trees. They also spend time researching to try and solve the problems **forestry** is facing, like disease, deforestation, and damage from wildfires.



WHO DO DENDROLOGISTS WORK FOR?

A dendrologist may work independently, which means they are not employed by one company, but work on special tasks research projects for different people at different times.

As with most fields of science, universities need dendrologists to teach their students and also take part in research that they may be doing on behalf of companies or the government of a country.

There are lots of research laboratories and businesses around the world involved in looking after the health and **conservation** of trees. Dendrologists can join their research projects and make a new discovery! Trees are really important to our ecosystem on Earth and scientists like dendrologists have much work to do - they can make a big difference to our world!

FAMOUS DISCOVERIES

Dendrologists have made so many amazing discoveries that have changed our understanding of trees and the natural world. Here's just a few of the biggest and best!



THE OLDEST TREE?

A Great Basin bristlecone pine tree that's growing in the USA, called Methuselah, is considered the oldest living tree in the world. It's almost 5,000 years old!

FAR AND WIDE!

In the USA, there's a colony of 40,000 trees that grew from one seed! As they are all connected by their roots, this colony is considered one single living organism.



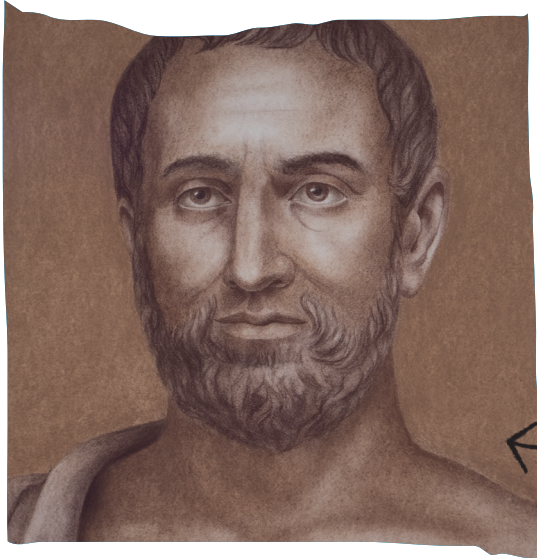
LIVING FOSSIL?

Wollemi pine trees were considered extinct for millions of years until a small group was found in Australia in 1994. These are very rare, but special, trees.

Dendrologists are making discoveries all the time, who knows what they might discover next!

FAMOUS DENDROLOGISTS

There have been so many clever dendrologists over the years.
Here's just a few of the most famous.



THEOPHRASTUS

Theophrastus from ancient Greece is often called the “father of botany”, because of his studies on plants. He's thought to be the first person to consider trees as being separate from other plants.

ANDREW E. DOUGLASS

Although an astronomer, Andrew E. Douglass founded dendrochronology - the technique of dating trees by studying the rings in their trunks – after noticing a link between tree rings, Sun cycles, and climate change.



SUZANNE SIMBARD

Suzanne Simbard's research has led to our understanding of how trees in forests share information and resources to help each other survive. What a huge discovery!

These are just a few of the many dendrologists who have made a huge difference to the science.