

Guidance on Physical Resources and Staff Required to Deliver RHS Qualifications in Practical Horticulture

(Listed by Qualification and Level)

The following table provides guidance for the physical resources and staff necessary to deliver all units of the qualifications listed. Where resources are recommended for the optional units within a qualification, this information has been noted. Please note this is not an exhaustive list of tools and equipment for the qualifications listed.

Further Guidance can be obtained from RHS Qualifications

Email: qualifications@rhs.org.uk

Phone: 01483 226500

Post: RHS Qualifications, RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6Q

Physical Resource	RHS Level 1 Introductory Award in Practical Horticulture	RHS Level 1 Award in Practical Horticulture	RHS Level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture	RHS Level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture
<p><u>For the Duration of the course</u></p> <p>Soil plots</p>	<p>Plot size for each candidate = 2m x 2m</p> <p>or</p> <p>Soil plots for learner groups (normally max 6 in a group) 4m x 4m</p>	<p>Plot size for each candidate = 2m x 2m</p> <p>or</p> <p>Soil plots for learner groups (normally max 6 in a group) 4m x 4m</p>	<p>Plot size for each candidate = 2m x 2 m</p> <p>or</p> <p>Soil plots for learner groups (normally max 6 in a group) 4m x 4m</p> <p>For Optional Unit: Practical skills in vegetable growing: Plot size for each candidate = 4m x 3m (same plot used for course and assessments)</p>	<p>Plot size for each candidate = 2m x 2m</p> <p>or</p> <p>Soil plots for learner groups (normally max 6 in a group) 4m x 4m</p>
<p><u>For assessment activities</u></p> <p>Soil plots</p>	<p>Outdoor sowing area measuring 3 x 4m</p> <p>Ensure space of 1m between plots</p> <p>It is recommended but not a requirement to have access to an alternative covered site of the same specification in case of adverse weather conditions.</p>	<p>Outdoor sowing area measuring 3 x 4m</p> <p>Ensure space of 1m between plots</p> <p>It is recommended but not a requirement to have access to an alternative covered site of the same specification in case of adverse weather conditions.</p>	<p>Outdoor sowing area measuring 3 x 4m</p> <p>Ensure space of 1m between plots</p> <p>It is recommended but not a requirement to have access to an alternative covered site of the same specification in case of adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>For Optional Unit: Establishing, Repairing and Maintaining a Lawn: Outdoor sowing area of 2 m x 2 m. Turf laying area of 4 m x 4 m. Lawn edges of 2 m.</p>	<p>Outdoor sowing area measuring 3 x 4m</p> <p>Ensure space of 1m between plots</p> <p>It is recommended but not a requirement to have access to an alternative covered site of the same specification in case of adverse weather conditions.</p>

			<p>Mowing area of 20 m square (a flat area which includes curved or right angled edge; and defined by a border or path).</p> <p>20 m square area to demonstrate scarification.</p> <p>10m square area to demonstrate application of a fertiliser.</p> <p>For Optional Unit: Practical skills in vegetable growing: Plot size for each candidate = 4m x 3m (same plot used for the duration of the course and assessments)</p>	
<p><u>For assessment activities and duration of the course</u></p> <p>Access to indoor facilities and equipment for germination and propagation activities</p>	<p>Facilities for seed storage, germination and propagation activities</p> <p>Potting shed workstations of approximately 1.5 – 2m width for each candidate. It is intended that no more than 6 candidates are assessed at any one time.</p> <p>Table-top space for placing completed work</p>	<p>Facilities for seed storage, germination and propagation activities</p> <p>Potting shed workstations of approximately 1.5 – 2m width for each candidate. It is intended that no more than 6 candidates are assessed at any one time.</p> <p>Table-top space for placing completed work</p>	<p>Facilities for seed storage, germination and propagation activities</p> <p>Greenhouse/ polytunnel/ cold frames</p> <p>Potting shed workstations of approximately 1.5 – 2m width for each candidate. It is intended that no more than 6 candidates are assessed at any one time.</p> <p>Table-top space for placing completed work</p>	<p>Facilities for seed storage, germination and propagation activities</p> <p>Greenhouse/ polytunnels/ cold frames</p> <p>Potting shed workstations of approximately 1.5 – 2m width for each candidate. It is intended that no more than 6 candidates are assessed at any one time.</p> <p>Table-top space for placing completed work</p>

<p><u>For assessment activities and duration of the course</u></p> <p>Gardening tools and equipment to include:</p>	<p>Where relevant at L1: Hand tools such as a fork, garden trowel; digging spade, garden fork, garden rake, draw/ push hoe; measuring tape/ sticks; dibbers; garden line; scissors; wheelbarrow; watering can/ hose; carry trays; sieves; bypass secateurs and/or knife plus sharpening stone, paint brush, absorbent cloth and linseed oil.</p> <p>Buckets, shovels, scoops, firming boards/ presser boards (Flat bottomed not warped), tiles or cutting boards, pencils, labels, string, marker pens, striking board, dustpan and brush.</p> <p>Rooting medium, Seed compost, potting compost/ potting medium; cutting compost, dry silver sand and vermiculite, soil improver, organic matter.</p> <p>Choice of containers (pots, trays, modules etc).</p>	<p>Where relevant at L1: Hand tools such as a fork, garden trowel; digging spade, garden fork, garden rake, draw/ push hoe; measuring tape/ sticks; dibbers; garden line; scissors; wheelbarrow; watering can/ hose; carry trays; sieves; bypass secateurs and/or knife plus sharpening stone, paint brush, absorbent cloth and linseed oil.</p> <p>Buckets, shovels, scoops, firming boards/ presser boards (Flat bottomed not warped), tiles or cutting boards, pencils, labels, string, marker pens, striking board, dustpan and brush.</p> <p>Rooting medium, Seed compost, potting compost/ potting medium; cutting compost, dry silver sand and vermiculite, soil improver, organic matter.</p> <p>Choice of containers (pots, trays, modules etc).</p>	<p>Where relevant at L2: Hand tools such as a fork, garden trowel; digging spade, garden fork, garden rake, garden trowel hand and border fork; measuring tape/ sticks, dibbers; garden line; draw/push hoe; driveall; hammer; bypass secateurs; sieve; knife; scissors; wheelbarrow; watering cans/ hose/ equipment for applying liquids; carry trays; sharpening stone; paint brush, absorbent cloth and linseed oil.</p> <p>Buckets, shovels, scoops, presser boards (Flat bottomed not warped), tiles or cutting boards, pencils, labels, string, marker pens, striking board, dustpan and brush.</p> <p>Rooting medium, seed compost, potting compost/ potting medium; cutting compost, dry silver sand and vermiculite, soil improver, organic matter.</p> <p>Choice of containers (pots, trays, modules etc).</p> <p>Optional Unit: Sustainable Garden Practice. Equipment for water storage and collection; irrigation equipment; tools to construct simple structures such as bird boxes, beetle banks.</p> <p>Optional Unit: Safe Operation of powered garden machinery.</p>	<p>Where relevant at L3: Hand tools such as a fork, garden trowel; measuring tape/rod; dibbers; mallet; pins/pegs; canes; pruning platform; step ladder; digging spade; garden spade; garden fork; border fork; dibbers; push hoe; draw hoe; driveall; bypass secateurs; bypass loppers; knife; scissors; sieves; seed dispenser; tying gun, tape and staples; manual ties; Spring tine rake (or suitable alternative); pruning saw; step ladder; hedge shears; wheelbarrow; watering can/ hose/ equipment for applying liquids; carry trays; sharpening stone; paint brush, absorbent cloth and linseed oil.</p> <p>Buckets, shovels, scoops, presser boards (Flat bottomed not warped), tiles or cutting boards, pencils, labels, string, marker pens, striking board, dustpan and brush.</p> <p>Rooting medium, seed compost, potting compost/ potting medium, cutting compost, dry silver sand and vermiculite, soil improver, organic matter.</p> <p>Choice of containers (pots, trays, modules etc).</p> <p>Option Within Unit: Establishing and maintaining a range of plant types and forms.</p>
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<p><u>For assessment activities and duration of the course</u></p> <p>Access to plant material as specified.</p> <p>Please refer to the 'Plants, Seeds, Pests, Diseases, Disorders and Beneficial Animals list' and/or the 'Assessor Information and Candidate Pro-formas' for further details</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>40 specimens to be assessed</p> <p>Deciduous and evergreen trees; conifers; deciduous shrubs; evergreen shrubs; climbing/ wall plants; non-woody herbaceous plants (including annuals, half hardy & biennial plants, tender and hardy perennials); rock garden and alpine plants; weeds; seeds</p>	<p>110 specimens to be assessed</p> <p>Deciduous and evergreen trees; conifers; deciduous shrubs; evergreen shrubs; non-woody herbaceous plants (including annuals, half hardy and biennials plants, tender and hardy perennials); rock garden and alpine plants; aquatic plants; weeds; seeds.</p> <p>Access to bare rooted and container plants, modular plants; bare rooted trees or shrubs</p> <p>Access to a mixed border.</p> <p>Optional Unit: Sustainable Garden Practice. Green Manures x 3 to be available for identification</p> <p>Optional Unit: Establishing, maintaining and repairing a lawn. Access to weeds in lawns Access to turfed areas Access to turf</p>	<p>115 specimens to be assessed.</p> <p>Deciduous and evergreen trees; conifers; deciduous shrubs; evergreen shrubs; non-woody herbaceous plants (including annuals half hardy and biennial plants, tender and hardy perennials); climbing plants/ wall shrubs; rock garden and alpine plants; aquatic plants; weeds; seeds.</p> <p>Access to pleached trees, pollarded trees, coppiced trees/ shrubs, topiary forms, bare root and containerised trees</p> <p>Top fruit and soft fruit</p> <p>Access to a mixed border.</p> <p>Optional Unit: Management of green spaces, landscaped areas, and ornamental gardens. Vegetables, herbs and other edible plants.</p>
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<p><u>For assessment activities and duration of the course</u></p> <p>Access to plant landscapes/ plant material for propagation.</p> <p>Please refer to the 'Plants, Seeds, Pests, Diseases, Disorders and Beneficial Animals list' for details</p>	<p>Material for:</p> <p>Cuttings (soft tip, semi ripe, hardwood); Divisions</p> <p>Sowing medium sized seeds</p>	<p>Material for:</p> <p>Cuttings (soft tip, semi ripe, hardwood); Divisions</p> <p>Sowing medium sized seeds</p>	<p>Material for:</p> <p>Cuttings (stem, leaf petiole, leaf lamina, root)</p> <p>Division</p> <p>Sowing fine, medium and coarse sized seeds</p>	<p>Material for:</p> <p>Chip budding</p> <p>Grafting (veneer, whip and tongue)</p> <p>Harvesting seeds</p> <p>Sowing fine, medium and coarse sized seeds</p>
<p><u>For assessment activities and duration of the course</u></p> <p>Access to an amenity/ decorative landscape site, in order to carry out specified horticultural operations.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Access to a range of hard landscaping features to include paving slabs, gravel, ornamental stone and wooden structures (prefabricated) requiring installation in the landscape.</p>
<p>Access to a landscaped site and</p>	X	X	<p>Formative, maintenance, regenerative and specialist pruning.</p>	<p>Formative, maintenance, regenerative and specialist pruning.</p>

appropriate plants, tools and equipment for pruning practice. Please refer to the 'Plants, Seeds, Pests, Diseases, Disorders and Beneficial Animals list' for details			E.g. Pruning saw, bypass loppers, bypass secateurs, hedge shears.	Pruning saw, bypass loppers, bypass secateurs, hedge shears.
Soil PH testing equipment (industry standard soil testing kit) plus appropriate tools used for collecting soil samples	X	Includes appropriate laboratory equipment for preparing soil samples; testing soil PH and determining soil textural classes ¹ .	Includes appropriate laboratory equipment for preparing soil samples; testing soil PH and determining soil textural classes.	Includes appropriate laboratory equipment for separating soil particle sizes, determining soil textural classes and measuring different soil weights.

¹ Note: The unit 'Soil Testing' is a level 2 unit – This unit is also a requirement for successfully completing the RHS level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture.

Access to plant waste, compost waste.	X	X	Facilities to make and process material for composting. Optional Unit ‘Sustainable Garden Practice’. Access to a mechanical shredder, if required.	Facilities to make and process material for composting. Option within Unit: ‘Establishing and Maintaining a range of plant types and forms.’ Access to a mechanical shredder/ chipper, if required.
Personal protective equipment and clothing	Overalls; protective footwear*, gloves (inc latex, non-latex gloves), eye protection; respiratory protection (dust masks).	Overalls; protective footwear*, gloves (inc latex, non-latex gloves), eye protection; respiratory protection (dust masks).	Overalls; protective footwear*, gloves (inc latex, non-latex gloves), eye protection; ear defenders; respiratory protection (dust masks); hard hats.	Overalls; protective footwear*, gloves (inc latex, non-latex gloves), eye protection; ear defenders; respiratory protection (dust masks); hard hats.
Access to learning support materials – (library/ access to internet etc)	This is a compulsory requirement √	This is a compulsory requirement √	This is a compulsory requirement √	This is a compulsory requirement √

*The RHS requirements are that candidates must have protective footwear and clothing appropriate for the task. It is responsibility of the centre to ensure that if the risk assessment requires steel toe-capped boots, (which certainly would be a requirement if using machinery) the operator must comply and use steel toe-capped boots.

Any proposed changes by the centre to the size of plot requirement must be discussed with the RHS external verifier before the commencement of any RHS practical programme. The RHS external verifier will only approve amendments to the plot size requirements if he/she is fully satisfied that the learning outcomes can be successfully achieved with the proposed amended plot size.

Tutor, Assessor and Internal Verifier requirements

<p>There are appropriately qualified and competent Tutors for delivery of RHS Qualifications</p>	<p>The centre can demonstrate all tutors hold relevant experience and expertise appropriate to the qualification and level they are teaching, this should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach to the horticultural industry standard with at least five years' active (and current) experience in horticulture relevant and appropriate to the qualification they are teaching, or experience of teaching (at a similar level). • Skills of supporting learners and experience teaching regulated qualifications or hold a recognised teaching qualification (or working towards). • Familiar with RHS Qualification Specification. • Relevant (and current) CPD activities.
<p>There are appropriately qualified and competent Assessors for delivery of RHS Qualifications (practical qualifications only)</p>	<p>The centre can demonstrate all assessors hold relevant experience and expertise appropriate to the qualification and level they are assessing, this should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess to the horticultural industry standard with at least five years' active (and current) experience in horticulture relevant and appropriate to the qualification they are assessing or experience of assessing (at a similar level). • Skills of supporting learners, giving constructive feedback and the ability to make assessment decisions relating to the qualification being assessed which are; consistent, valid, fair, and reliable and meet the industry standard. • Experience of assessing in the same, or similar occupational area, or hold a recognised assessor qualification (e.g. Level 3 Award in Assessing Vocational Related Activity or A1). • Familiar with RHS Qualification Specification and related processes and procedures. • Relevant (and current) CPD activities.
<p>There are appropriately qualified and competent Internal Verifiers (IVs) for RHS Qualifications (practical qualifications only)</p>	<p>The centre can demonstrate all Internal Verifiers hold relevant experience and expertise appropriate to the qualification and level they are internally verifying, this should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least five years' active (and current) experience in horticulture relevant and appropriate to the qualification they are internally verifying. • Experience of assessing in the same, or similar occupational area to the one they are verifying, to the horticultural industry standard. • Experience of internally verifying in the same, or similar occupational area or hold a recognised internal verification qualification (e.g. Level 4 Award in the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice or V1). • Skills of supporting assessment staff and providing constructive feedback. • Ability to implement and operate a robust internal quality assurance procedure, to ensure standardisation across assessors, assessment decisions and assessment sites which meet the industry standard. • Familiar with RHS Qualification Specification and related processes and procedures. • Relevant (and current) CPD activities.