Are you a keen gardener, passionate about plants, and wanting to learn more? Or do you want to start a career in horticulture, maybe thinking about a career change?

The RHS offers a range of qualifications to meet the needs of those wishing to develop their practical horticultural skills and knowledge.

Where can I study for an RHS qualification?

Courses leading to RHS qualifications are offered by approved centres throughout the UK and Ireland. The courses are part-time, usually offered as one day per week or as an evening class. It is also possible to study for the theory qualifications through distance learning.

How can I find out more?

Visit our website at:
www.rhs.org.uk/courses/qualifications

Or contact RHS Qualifications:
Email: qualifications@ rhs.org.uk
Phone: 01483 226500
Post: RHS Qualifications, RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB

RHS QUALIFICATIONS

RHS Qualifications is a nationally recognised awarding body offering a range of qualifications for professional horticulturists and keen gardeners of all ages.

The RHS offers qualifications that enable learners to develop their knowledge and skills and to progress, from the Level 1 Award in Practical Horticulture through to the Master of Horticulture, the Society’s most prestigious qualification.

The Royal Horticultural Society has been awarding qualifications since 1893, and its qualifications are widely recognised and respected within the horticulture industry.

This leaflet outlines the accredited practical horticultural skills qualifications that the RHS offers. For more information about the full range of RHS qualifications, visit our website at
www.rhs.org.uk/courses/qualifications

rhs.org.uk/courses/qualifications
RHS LEVEL 1

Award in Practical Horticulture

This qualification focuses on developing essential horticultural skills and provides a foundation for other RHS practical qualifications at level 2 and level 3.

The qualification consists of 6 units covering the following subject areas:

- Preparing soil for sowing and planting
- Soil testing
- Assist with the propagation of plants from seed
- Assist with the vegetative propagation of plants
- Assist with planting and establishing plants
- Identification of a range of common garden plants, weeds, pests and diseases.

Assessment is by means of a range of practical activities assessed within the centre.

There are no pre-requisites for entry to the qualification.

RHS LEVEL 2

Certificate in Practical Horticulture

This qualification focuses on developing further the essential horticultural skills introduced at level 1. These not only offer opportunities for employment, but provide the foundation for further skills development at level 3.

The qualification consists of 6 core units and 1 optional unit covering the following subject areas:

Core units:
- Soil testing
- Sowing seeds and vegetative propagation techniques
- Practical skills in ground preparation for seeding and planting
- Practical skills in establishing seedlings in soil
- Care and pruning of plants
- Identification of a range of common garden plants, weeds, pests, diseases and disorders and beneficial organisms.

Optional units (choose 1):
- Sustainable garden practice
- Safe operation of powered garden machinery

Assessment is by means of a range of practical activities assessed within the centre.

There are no pre-requisites for entry to the qualification, but it is recommended that learners possess the basic skills covered at level 1.

RHS LEVEL 3

Certificate in Practical Horticulture

This qualification builds on the essential horticultural skills covered at level 2. This qualification not only offers opportunities for employment, but enables the learner to begin to specialise in their areas of interest.

The qualification consists of 4 core units and 1 optional unit covering the following subject areas:

Core units:
- Collecting and testing soil samples and specifying adjustments for horticulture
- Collecting, preparing and propagating from seed
- Establishing and maintaining a range of plant types and forms
- Identification of a range of common garden plants, weeds, pests, diseases and disorders.

Optional units (choose 1):
- Planning, collecting, preparing and establishing propagation material or
- Management of green spaces, landscaped areas, and ornamental gardens.

Assessment is by means of a range of practical activities assessed within the centre.

There are no pre-requisites for entry to the qualification, but it is recommended that learners possess the skills covered at level 2.

RHS LEVEL 2

Diploma in the Principles and Practices of Horticulture

Learners who successfully complete all the necessary units for:
- RHS Level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture and
- RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture will have gained all the required units for the RHS Level 2 Diploma in the Principles and Practices of Horticulture.

RHS LEVEL 3

Diploma in the Principles and Practices of Horticulture

Learners who successfully complete all the necessary units for:
- RHS Level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture and
- RHS Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Plant Growth, Health and Applied Propagation and
- RHS Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Garden Planning, Construction and Planting

will have gained all the required units for the RHS Level 3 Diploma in the Principles and Practices of Horticulture.