

RHS Qualifications

RHS Level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture

Qualification Specification **For reference only**

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1. RHS Qualifications Contact Details

RHS Qualifications is the Awarding Organisation of the Royal Horticultural Society.

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Tel: 01483 226500

Email: qualifications@rhs.org.uk

RHS website; rhs.org.uk/qualifications

2. Equality and Diversity Policy Statement

RHS Qualifications is committed to policies that will promote equal opportunities in all its operations, regardless of age, disability, ethnic origin, gender, marital status, religion, sexual orientation or any other factor.

RHS Qualifications is committed to ensuring that there is no unfair discrimination in any of its operations and will take into account all current legislation in relation to the equality of opportunity.

RHS Qualifications will constantly monitor and review its policies and practices pertaining to equal opportunities, to ensure that they remain consistent with its equal opportunities objectives and continue to comply with all relevant legislation.

RHS Qualifications will strive to make awareness of and respect for equality and diversity an integral part of the culture of the organisation.

A copy of the RHS Qualifications Equality and Diversity Policy is available on the RHS website.

3. RHS Level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture

3.1 Introduction

The Level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture focuses on developing essential horticultural skills. These not only offer opportunities for employment, but provide the foundation for further skills development at level 3. By carefully focusing on key skills, it has been possible to develop a practical qualification that can be studied on a part-time basis, either during the day or in the evening. RHS theoretical and practical qualifications are offered separately in order to provide maximum flexibility to candidates, providers and employers.

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

The qualification is on the Register of Regulated Qualifications.

Qualification Number: 501/0207/2

3.2 Guided Learning Hours (GLH) and Total Qualification Time (TQT)

The Guided Learning Hours (GLH) represent the time that the learner spends learning under the immediate guidance and supervision of a tutor and includes assessment by the tutor, as well as invigilated exams. Guided Learning Hours are always less than total qualification time, as learners are expected to complete a certain amount of study in their own time.

The Guided Learning Hours for this qualification are 128.

Total Qualification Time (TQT) includes the Guided Learning Hours and represents the notional time that an average learner could reasonably expect to take to complete the learning outcomes of the units to the standard determined by the assessment criteria, and gain the qualification. It includes all face-to-face contact with tutors as well as assessment time and unsupervised directed study, coursework and practice.

The Total Qualification Time for this qualification is 173.

3.3 Teaching Pattern

The qualification is designed to be studied on a part-time basis. No particular teaching pattern is specified, and centres offering courses leading to the qualification are free to define their own teaching structure and teaching hours.

3.4 Qualification Pathways

Due to health and safety requirements candidates aged less than 16 **cannot** register for the optional units Safe operation of powered garden machinery or Establishing, repairing and maintaining a lawn.

Below is a list of pathways available to students aged under 16 and 16+.

Students aged under 16

Students under the age of 16 are only permitted to complete the following combination of mandatory and optional unit.

	Mandatory Units
R2100	Soil Testing Unit reference number K/601/7503
R2121	Sowing seeds and vegetative propagation techniques Unit reference number A/601/7666
R2122	Practical skills in ground preparation for seeding and planting Unit reference number F/601/7667
R2123	Practical skills in establishing seeds and plants in soil Unit reference number L/601/7669
R2124	Care and pruning of plants Unit reference number J/601/7671
R2125	Identification of a range of common garden plants, weeds, pests, diseases, disorders and beneficial organisms Unit reference number K/601/7680
	<i>Optional Unit</i>
R2126	Sustainable garden practice Unit reference number M/601/9155
R2129	Practical skills in vegetable growing Unit reference number R/506/6409
R2130	Practical skills in the maintenance of established soft fruit Unit reference number D/506/9166
R2131	Practical skills in the maintenance of established top fruit Unit reference number H/506/9167

Students aged 16+

Students who are aged 16 or over at the date of registration are permitted to take the following mandatory and optional units.

	Mandatory Units
R2100	Soil Testing Unit reference number K/601/7503
R2121	Sowing seeds and vegetative propagation techniques Unit reference number A/601/7666
R2122	Practical skills in ground preparation for seeding and planting Unit reference number F/601/7667
R2123	Practical skills in establishing seeds and plants in soil Unit reference number L/601/7669
R2124	Care and pruning of plants Unit reference number J/601/7671
R2125	Identification of a range of common garden plants, weeds, pests, diseases, disorders and beneficial organisms Unit reference number K/601/7680
	<i>Optional Units (Choose One)</i>
R2126	Sustainable garden practice Unit reference number M/601/9155
R2127	Safe operation of powered garden machinery Unit reference number T/601/7682
R2128	Establishing, repairing and maintaining a lawn Unit reference number J/506/6410
R2129	Practical skills in vegetable growing Unit reference number R/506/6409
R2130	Practical skills in the maintenance of established soft fruit Unit reference number D/506/9166
R2131	Practical skills in the maintenance of established top fruit Unit reference number H/506/9167

3.5 Qualification Structure

The qualification will be awarded to those who successfully complete the six mandatory units and one from the optional units (normally optional units are chosen by the centre - please check with the centre to see which optional unit they are offering).

RHS Ref	Unit	Level
	<i>Mandatory Units</i>	
R2100	Soil Testing Unit reference number K/601/7503	2
R2121	Sowing seeds and vegetative propagation techniques Unit reference number A/601/7666	2
R2122	Practical skills in ground preparation for seeding and planting Unit reference number F/601/7667	2
R2123	Practical skills in establishing seeds and plants in soil Unit reference number L/601/7669	2
R2124	Care and pruning of plants Unit reference number J/601/7671	2
R2125	Identification of a range of common garden plants, weeds, pests, diseases, disorders and beneficial organisms Unit reference number K/601/7680	2
	<i>Optional Units</i>	
R2126	Sustainable garden practice Unit reference number M/601/9155	2
R2127	Safe operation of powered garden machinery Unit reference number T/601/7682	2
R2128	Establishing, repairing and maintaining a lawn Unit reference number J/506/6410	2
R2129	Practical skills in vegetable growing Unit reference number R/506/6409	2

R2130	Practical skills in the maintenance of established soft fruit Unit reference number D/506/9166	2
R2131	Practical skills in the maintenance of established top fruit Unit reference number H/506/9167	2

3.6 Assessment

Assessment will be conducted by the centre using RHS criteria. Assessment information and guidance documents can be found in the Guidance for Centres Delivering Practical Assessment.

3.7 Language

Assessments will be offered in English.

3.8 Learning Resources

There is a wide range of books and other learning resources published which support the studies of those learning horticulture. RHS Qualifications does not recommend or endorse any specific learning resources as meeting the needs of learners studying for RHS qualifications. Learners are encouraged to seek guidance from their tutors on which resources best support their studies, or to choose the most appropriate resources for their needs from the wealth of material available.

4. Approved Centres

Centres wishing to offer examinations leading to RHS qualifications must be approved by RHS Qualifications.

Applications for approval should be sent to the Quality Assurance and Relationships Officer at the contact details in section 1.

5. Candidate Registration

RHS Approved centres should register candidates for examinations in the units of the qualification through the RHS Qualifications Web Portal.

Approved Centres undertake to obtain on behalf of their learners a Unique Learner Number (ULN), unless the learner chooses not to have one.

If centres supply an email address for candidates at the time of registration, candidates will be invited to open an account on the RHS Qualifications Web Portal, and will be able to view their qualification history, their current registrations, and their results when available.

6 Reasonable Adjustments

RHS Qualifications is committed to ensuring fair assessment for all candidates, and will facilitate access to its qualifications through reasonable adjustments to assessment arrangements for candidates with an identified specific need. An example of a reasonable adjustment which could be made is the production of a modified assessment paper for a candidate with a visual impairment.

Full guidance is provided in the document 'Guidance to Centres for Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration'. The document is available on the RHS website (rhs.org.uk/qualifications), the RHS Qualifications Approved Centre Web Portal, or can be obtained from RHS Qualifications.

Applications for reasonable adjustment must be made by the Approved Centre on behalf of the candidate. Application must be made within specified timescales.

7. Fees

For a full list of fees please see the RHS Qualifications Fees Notice, this document is available on the Qualifications page on the RHS website and on the RHS Web Portal.

All fees are payable prior to confirmation of service or entry for assessment.

Replacement Certificate (if lost, damaged or destroyed)

The fee for a replacement certificate can be found on the RHS Qualifications Fees Notice. Please send your request to the Qualifications Department.

8. Appeals Procedure

An Appeals procedure exists to conduct appeals lodged by candidates against decisions made by RHS Qualifications, concerning their performance, the granting of an award and/or the closure of their entry to an award on academic grounds.

The procedure is also followed in cases where there is irregularity or malpractice in the conduct of assessment and where RHS Qualifications has imposed a penalty on a candidate or assessor, and the Centre wishes to appeal against this decision after results are published.

A copy of the procedure is available on the RHS Qualifications Web portal and on the RHS website.

9. Policy on Malpractice and Maladministration

Malpractice consists of those acts which undermine the integrity and validity of the assessment or examination, the certification of qualifications and/or damage the authority of those responsible for conducting the assessment, examination and certification.

RHS Qualifications does not tolerate actions or attempted actions of malpractice by learners or centres in connection with RHS qualifications. RHS Qualifications may impose penalties and/or sanctions on candidates or centres where incidents, or attempted incidents, of malpractice have been proven. A copy of the full policy is available on the RHS Qualifications Web portal and on the RHS website.

Soil Testing

RHS reference number: R2100

Unit reference number:- K/601/7503

Unit guided learning hours: 9

Unit level: Level 2

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit provides the learner with the skills and knowledge to accurately test a range of soils

Learning Outcomes The learner will:		Assessment Criteria The learner can:	
1.	Understand the reasons for soil testing	1.1	State the reasons for soil testing
2.	Be able to collect and prepare soil samples for testing	2.1	Collect a soil sample from the topsoil of a given site (without using the ADAS method)
		2.2	Demonstrate how to prepare a soil sample for testing
3.	Be able to identify the textural class of soils	3.1	Perform soil texture tests by feel using the ADAS 1985 soil texture key
		3.2	Distinguish between distinctly different textural classes
4.	Be able to determine the pH of soils	4.1	Perform a pH test using an industry standard soil testing kit
		4.2	Differentiate between prepared soil samples

Sowing seeds and vegetative propagation techniques

Unit reference number: R2121

Unit reference number: A/601/7666

Unit guided learning hours: 19

Unit level: Level 2

Unit purpose and aim(s) This unit provides the learner with the knowledge and skills to propagate a diverse range of plants and to provide appropriate aftercare.

Learning Outcomes The learner will:		Assessment Criteria The learner can:	
1.	Be able to fill containers appropriately to a consistent standard in readiness to accept seed or propagules	1.1	Demonstrate how to fill a range of containers
		1.2	Demonstrate how to 'strike off' (level) a range of containers
		1.3	Consolidate growing media in a range of containers appropriately
2.	Be able to sow seed to a consistent and uniform standard in containers and carry out appropriate aftercare to ensure successful germination	2.1	Sow seed and label appropriately
		2.2	Cover seeds appropriately
		2.3	Perform the task of watering selecting an appropriate method
		2.4	Select the appropriate environmental conditions for sown seed
		2.5	Specify the appropriate temperature range required for successful germination of different types of seeds sown
		2.6	Describe how to ensure successful germination of seed
3.	Be able to prick out seedlings into containers	3.1	Prick out seedlings singly into pots
		3.2	Prick out seedlings into seed trays at stated densities
		3.3	Prick out seedlings into modular trays at stated densities

4.	Be able to propagate plants from stem cuttings	4.1	Collect suitable material from the mother plant
		4.2	Demonstrate how to protect collected material appropriately to prevent desiccation
		4.3	Prepare uniform stem cuttings for insertion
		4.4	Propagate plants from stem cuttings
		4.5	Apply appropriate root promotion material to the base of the propagule (if required)
		4.6	Demonstrate how to insert propagules into growing media
5.	Be able to propagate plants from leaf petiole and leaf lamina cuttings	5.1	Collect material from the mother plant
		5.2	Demonstrate how to protect collected material appropriately to prevent desiccation
		5.3	Propagate by leaf petiole cuttings
		5.4	Perform leaf lamina propagation techniques
		5.5	Prepare and insert propagules into growing media appropriately
6.	Be able to propagate plants from root cuttings during dormant season	6.1	Collect material from the mother plant
		6.2	Demonstrate how to protect collected material appropriately to prevent desiccation
		6.3	Propagate by root cuttings
		6.4	Prepare and insert propagules into growing media
7.	Be able to propagate plants by division during the appropriate season	7.1	Lift the mother plant (if necessary)
		7.2	Demonstrate how to carry out the process of division using a suitable method
		7.3	Perform the technique of division on a range of plants
		7.4	Prepare the propagules for replanting / potting

		7.5	Demonstrate how to protect newly prepared material from desiccation
		7.6	Replant or pot propagules in prepared soil or appropriate media in containers
8.	Be able to provide aftercare to propagules	8.1	Select a suitable environment for newly propagated material and carry out appropriate aftercare to ensure success

Practical skills in ground preparation for seeding and planting

RHS reference number: R2122

Unit reference number: F/601/7667

Unit guided learning hours: 19

Unit level: Level 2

Unit purpose and aim(s): The aim of this unit is to provide the learner with the knowledge and skills required in preparing the ground for planting plants and seeds..

Learning Outcomes The learner will:		Assessment Criteria The learner can:	
1.	Be able to select, use and maintain equipment	1.1	Select appropriate equipment for this area of work
		1.2	Use equipment according to instructions
		1.3	Prepare, maintain and store equipment in a safe and effective working condition throughout
2.	Be able to prepare ground for seeding and planting	2.1	Prepare the ground in a way that is appropriate to the plants/seeds being established, the soil type and ground conditions
		2.2	Add the materials specified for the operation. (it may be compost, fertiliser or sand)
		2.3	Produce the required tilth for the specified finish.
		2.4	Clear debris from the site effectively, safely, tidily and legally
		2.5	Complete work to the agreed schedule
3.	Be able to work safely and minimise environmental damage	3.1	Work in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with current legislation, codes of practice and any additional requirements
		3.2	Carry out work in a manner which minimises environmental damage
		3.3	Dispose of waste safely and correctly

Practical Skills in Establishing Seeds and Plants in Soil

RHS reference number: R2123

Unit reference number: L/601/7669

Unit guided learning hours: 19

Unit level: Level 2

Unit purpose and aim(s): The aim of this unit is to provide the learner with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to plant and establish plants and or seeds in soil. The learner will also provide aftercare to meet specifications for newly established plants or seeds.

Learning Outcomes The learner will:		Assessment Criteria The learner can:	
1.	Be able to select, use and maintain equipment	1.1	Select appropriate equipment for this area of work
		1.2	Use equipment according to instructions
		1.3	Prepare, maintain and store equipment in a safe and effective working condition throughout
2.	Be able to select and transport plants and or seeds	2.1	Select plants and or seeds as requested
		2.2	Identify a representative sample of plants
		2.3	Handle, prepare and transport plants and seeds in a way that maintains their health and condition
3.	Be able to establish plants and or seeds in soil	3.1	Position and plant the plants and or seeds according to instructions / drawings
		3.2	Provide aftercare to meet the planting specifications
4.	Be able to work safely and minimise environmental damage	4.1	Work in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with current legislation, codes of practice and any additional requirements
		4.2	Dispose of waste safely and correctly

Care and pruning of plants

RHS reference number: R2124

Unit reference number: J/601/7671

Unit guided learning hours: 21

Unit level: Level 2

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit provides the learner with the knowledge and skills to successfully plant, prune and care for a wide range of hardy plants.

Learning Outcomes The learner will:		Assessment Criteria The learner can:	
1.	Be able to re-pot and pot on	1.1	Assess the condition of the plant and report
		1.2	'Knock out' an established container grown plant
		1.3	Remove dead, diseased or damaged parts of plants
		1.4	Remove old media from surface and ease compaction of the root ball
		1.5	Trim the roots and aerial growth (if appropriate)
		1.6	Select an appropriate container
		1.7	Select an appropriate growing media for the subject
		1.8	Perform the task of potting on
2.	Be able to provide aftercare to aid the establishment of plants that have been re-potted and those growing in the open ground	2.1	Demonstrate how to provide appropriate aftercare
		2.2	Demonstrate how to apply fertilisers
		2.3	Report changes in the conditions of plants indicating possible causes
3.	Know how to apply the principles of pruning	3.1	Define the term '3 Ds' and state the order in which the 3 D's are carried out
		3.2	Define pruning terminology
4.	Be able to prune a range of plants to achieve specified outcomes	4.1	Perform formative and maintenance pruning operations on a range of plants

Identification of a range of common garden plants, weeds, pests, diseases, disorders and beneficial organisms

RHS reference number: R R2125

Unit reference number: K/601/7680

Unit guided learning hours: 24

Unit level: Level 2

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit provides the learner with the knowledge required to identify a range of common garden plants, weeds, seeds, pests, diseases, disorders and beneficial organisms.

Learning Outcomes The learner will:		Assessment Criteria The learner can:	
1.	Understand how plants are botanically named	1.1	Name plants correctly using the accepted botanical nomenclature
2.	Be able to identify a range of plants	2.1	Identify a range of plants by botanical name from each of the following categories: (a) deciduous or evergreen trees (b) conifers (c) deciduous shrubs (d) evergreen shrubs (e) non-woody herbaceous plants (f) rock garden and alpine plants (g) aquatic plants (h) weeds
3.	Be able to identify a range of seeds	3.1	Identify a range of seeds by generic name.
4.	Be able to identify a range of pests, diseases and disorders	4.1	Identify a range of pests, diseases and disorders by common name.
5.	Know a range of beneficial birds, animals and insects	5.1	Identify a range of beneficial birds, animals, or insects by common name.
		5.2	State why the animals, birds and insects identified in 5.1 are beneficial to horticulture

Sustainable garden practice

RHS reference number: R2126

Unit reference number: M/601/9155

Unit guided learning hours: 18

Unit level: Level 2

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit enables the learner to understand and apply a range of sustainable gardening practices.

Learning Outcomes The learner will:		Assessment Criteria The learner can:	
1.	Be able to identify potential hazards and risks associated with sustainable garden practice	1.1	Define the hazards associated with handling plant waste and composting
		1.2	Define the hazards associated with preparing and applying compost teas and other organic materials
		1.3	Define the hazards associated with water storage and use
		1.4	Assess the hazards associated with handling potentially injurious plants
2.	Be able to select and use appropriate personal protective equipment and clothing	2.1	Identify and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment and clothing required
3.	Be able to select and use a range of tools, equipment and materials	3.1	Perform sustainable garden operations using a range of equipment and tools
		3.2	Select and use sustainable materials in a range of garden operations
4.	Be able to make and use garden compost	4.1	Collect garden waste and separate for processing
		4.2	Select and process suitable material for composting (shredding if required) and add to compost heap
		4.3	Dispose of unsuitable material in an environmentally acceptable manner
		4.4	Monitor compost and assess the need for aeration and turning

		4.5	Select and apply composted material for a range of uses to include a) conservation / protection of un-cropped areas b) mulching around established plants c) soil improvement prior to sowing or planting
5.	Be able to harvest rainwater, conserve grey water, store appropriately and use to irrigate plants	5.1	Harvest/recycle water and store appropriately
		5.2	Assess the quality of harvested/ recycled water for horticultural use
		5.3	Apply adequate amounts of water to plants outdoors to maintain growth
6.	Be able to use green manure, compost and natural materials to enhance soil fertility and feed plants	6.1	Name suitable plant species for use as green manure
		6.2	Sow green manure between crops
		6.3	Incorporate green manure by digging in prior to re-sowing or planting
7.	Be able to prepare liquid organic materials and apply to plants	7.1	Prepare liquid organic materials
		7.2	Apply liquid organic materials to plants
8.	Be able to select plant species adapted for specific environmental conditions	8.1	Select plant species adapted for specific environmental conditions to include (a) dry soils (b) waterlogged soils (c) reduced light
		8.2	Report changes in the condition of plants, indicating possible causes to include (a) water deficiency/excess (b) disease (c) pests (d) environmental damage

9.	Be able to select and make provision for beneficial birds, animals and insects	9.1	Perform activities in a garden setting which encourage beneficial organisms
		9.2	State the ecological advantages of a range of beneficial birds, animals and insects in a garden setting
10.	Be able to prevent and control pests, weeds and diseases using sustainable practices	10.1	Demonstrate suitable cultural methods to prevent / reduce the occurrence of pests, weeds and diseases
		10.2	Demonstrate suitable cultural methods of control on a range of established pests, weeds and diseases
		10.3	Apply biological controls to a range of pests

Safe operation of powered garden machinery

RHS reference number R2127

Unit reference number: T/601/7682

Unit guided learning hours: 17

Unit level: Level 2

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit provides the learner with the knowledge and skills to safely operate a range of powered garden machinery, and includes pre-start checks, adjustment, effective operation and basic maintenance.

Learning Outcomes The learner will:		Assessment Criteria The learner can:	
1.	Be able to identify potential hazards and risks associated with powered garden machinery	1.1	Identify the risks associated with powered garden machinery
		1.2	Assess the hazards associated with powered garden machinery
2.	Be able to select and wear appropriate personal protective equipment and clothing	2.1	Select and correctly wear the appropriate personal protective equipment and clothing/equipment required
3.	Be able to carry out pre-start checks on powered garden machinery	3.1	Assess the condition and serviceability of powered garden machines
4.	Be able to check that all safety signage, guards and devices are in position and operating correctly	4.1	Define the meaning of the different safety decals (signage)
		4.2	Identify the position of guards and confirm that they are in place correctly fitted and secure
		4.3	Demonstrate that all safety devices are operational (as applicable to machine)
5.	Be able to identify the controls and define their function	5.1	Identify the controls of a range of powered garden machinery, and demonstrate their correct use
6.	Be able to adjust a limited range of garden machinery for specified tasks	6.1	Perform pre-operation adjustments to powered garden machines prior to 'work' to accommodate the operator
		6.2	Carry out simple adjustments to different types of powered garden machine prior to 'work' to suit task

7.	Be able to use garden machinery safely and effectively	7.1	Demonstrate safe use of different powered garden machinery
		7.2	Demonstrate efficient working practice and correct technique using different powered garden machinery
8.	Be able to clean and check garden machinery after use	8.1	Wear correct personal protective equipment for cleaning garden machinery
		8.2	Perform post operative cleaning operations and checks on powered garden machinery
9.	Know how to correctly dispose of waste associated with the use of powered garden machinery	9.1	Specify how to dispose of waste correctly

Establishing, repairing and maintaining a lawn

RHS reference number: R2128

Unit reference number: J/506/6410

Unit guided learning hours: 22

Unit level: Level 2

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit provides the learner with the skills and knowledge to establish, repair and maintain a small scale lawn.

Learning Outcomes The learner will:		Assessment Criteria The learner can:	
1.	Be able to select and safely use tools, equipment and machinery	1.1	Select the correct tools, equipment and machinery for the specified tasks
		1.2	Use tools, equipment and machinery in a safe and correct manner according to instructions
		1.3	Select and correctly wear the appropriate personal protective equipment and clothing required for the specified tasks
		1.4	Maintain tools, equipment and machinery in a safe, clean and effective condition
2.	Be able to establish a new area of lawn	2.1	Demonstrate establishing a new area of lawn by seeding
		2.2	Carry out safe handling of turf prior to laying
		2.3	Perform laying of turf
		2.4	State when key operations for turf in the first year should occur
3.	Be able to carry out lawn repairs	3.1	Redefine the edge of a lawn using a half-moon edging iron
		3.2	Maintain a cut lawn edge with lawn edging shears
		3.3	Demonstrate cutting, lifting and replacing turf from a damaged edge of a lawn
		3.4	Demonstrate replacing damaged turf from a section of lawn
		3.5	Repair a small patch of lawn by reseeding

		3.6	Carry out levelling out by the removal of minor bumps or hollows in a lawn
4.	Be able to carry out efficient and effective mowing operations	4.1	Carry out a visual inspection of the site prior to mowing
		4.2	Demonstrate that all safety devices are operational, as applicable to machine
		4.3	Adjust height of cut appropriate to time of year, site condition and species composition
		4.4	Identify the controls of a pedestrian motorised rotary mower and demonstrate their correct use
		4.5	Demonstrate the correct mowing of an established lawn using a pedestrian motorised rotary mower
5	Be able to remove thatch from a lawn	5.1	Demonstrate the removal of thatch using a mechanical scarifier
6	Be able to identify lawn problems and methods of control	6.1	Identify lawn problems
		6.2	State methods of control
		6.3	Dispose of waste safely and correctly
7	Be able to apply a fertiliser to an established lawn	7.1	Demonstrate fertiliser application at an appropriate specified rate

Practical skills in vegetable growing

RHS reference number: R2129

Unit reference number: R/506/6409

Unit guided learning hours: 19

Unit level: Level 2

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit provides the learner with the skills and knowledge to successfully plan and prepare a small site and to then grow a small range of vegetable crops.

Learning Outcomes The learner will:		Assessment Criteria The learner can:	
1.	Be able to select, use and maintain tools and equipment for vegetable growing	1.1	Select and use appropriate tools and equipment
		1.2	Use tools and equipment in a safe and correct manner
		1.3	Keep tools in a safe, clean and effective condition
2.	Be able to produce plans for sowing and growing a range of vegetable crops	2.1	Produce a 4-year crop rotation plan for the selected site
		2.2	Produce a plan to outline the first year of cultivation of vegetable crops for the selected site
3	Be able to prepare a site for sowing and growing vegetable crops	3.1	Carry out operations to provide optimum growing conditions, based on soil type and ground conditions
4	Be able to direct sow and establish a range of vegetable crops	4.1	Carry out sowing of the vegetable crops selected
		4.2	Plant out the prepared potato crop selected
		4.3	Select and use an appropriate protective environment to ensure successful germination and establishment of direct sown vegetable crops
5	Be able to select and use protective environments for growing on vegetable crops	5.1	Demonstrate sowing and growing on of vegetable crops, under a protective environment for planting out
		5.2	Select and use an appropriate protective environment to provide protection from pests and diseases for the growing on of direct sown vegetable crops

6	Be able to perform maintenance tasks on a range of vegetable crops	6.1	Demonstrate thinning out of direct sown vegetable crops
		6.2	Record negative changes in the condition of vegetable crops indicating possible causes
		6.3	Carry out cultural control of weeds
		6.4	Stake and tie in vegetable crops, using an appropriate method
		6.5	Pinch out and remove excess, dead and unwanted growth
		6.6	Earth up potatoes
		6.7	Water vegetable crops to maintain crop health and development
		6.8	Feed vegetable crops by foliar or granular, or liquid feed
		6.9	Harvest vegetable crops to maintain future cropping
7	Be able to dispose of waste safely and correctly	7.1	Identify unwanted debris
		7.2	Remove unwanted debris from the cultivation site
		7.3	Dispose of waste in a safe and correct manner

Practical skills in the maintenance of established soft fruit

RHS reference number: R2130

Unit reference number: D/506/9166

Unit guided learning hours: 21

Unit level: Level 2

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit provides the learner with the knowledge and skills to maintain established soft fruit.

Learning Outcomes The learner will:		Assessment Criteria The learner can:	
1.	Be able to select, use and maintain tools and equipment for soft fruit production	1.1	Select and use the correct tools and equipment for the task
		1.2	Use tools and equipment in a safe and correct manner
		1.3	Keep tools in a safe, clean and effective condition
		1.4	Select and correctly wear the appropriate personal protective equipment and/or clothing required for the tasks
2.	Be able to identify a range of pests, diseases and disorders affecting soft fruit	2.1	Identify a range of pests affecting soft fruit
		2.2	Identify a range of diseases affecting soft fruit plants
		2.3	Identify a range of disorders affecting soft fruit
3	Be able to carry out maintenance operations on a range of soft fruit	3.1	Carry out maintenance operations on strawberry plants
		3.2	Carry out maintenance operations on raspberry plants fruiting on current season's growth
		3.3	Carry out maintenance operations on raspberry plants fruiting on previous season's growth
		3.4	Carry out maintenance operations on blackcurrant plants
		3.5	Carry out maintenance operations on gooseberry plants
		3.6	Carry out maintenance operations on blackberry plants

4	Be able to harvest soft fruit	4.1	Harvest soft fruit correctly
5	Be able to dispose of waste safely and correctly	5.1	Identify unwanted debris
		5.2	Remove unwanted debris from the cultivation site
		5.3	Dispose of waste in a safe and correct manner

Practical skills in the maintenance of top fruit

RHS reference number: R2131

Unit reference number: H/506/9167

Unit guided learning hours: 21

Unit level: Level 2

Unit purpose and aim(s): This unit provides the learner with the knowledge and skills to maintain established top fruit.

Learning Outcomes The learner will:		Assessment Criteria The learner can:	
1.	Be able to select, use and maintain tools & equipment for fruit production	1.1	Select and use the correct tools and equipment for the task
		1.2	Use tools and equipment in a safe and correct manner.
		1.3	Keep tools in a safe, clean and effective condition
		1.4	Select and correctly wear the appropriate personal protective equipment and/or clothing required for the tasks
2.	Be able to identify a range of pests, diseases and disorders affecting top fruit	2.1	Identify a range of pests affecting top fruit
		2.2	Identify a range of diseases affecting top fruit
		2.3	Identify a range of disorders affecting top fruit
3	Be able to carry out maintenance operations on a range of top fruit	3.1	Carry out maintenance operations on a freestanding apple tree
		3.2	Carry out maintenance operations on a freestanding plum tree
		3.3	Carry out maintenance operations on a freestanding pear or cherry or fig tree
4	Be able to harvest top fruit	4.1	Harvest top fruit correctly
5	Be able to dispose of waste safely and correctly	5.1	Identify unwanted debris
		5.2	Dispose of waste in a safe and correct manner