

Statement of Qualification Purpose

RHS Level 2 Diploma in the Principles and Practices of Horticulture

Qualification Number: 601/0356/5

Level: 2

Content

The qualification provides a broad knowledge of the principles which underpin horticultural practices as well as essential horticultural skills. The qualification combines the units in the RHS Level 2 Certificate in Principles of Plant Growth, Propagation and Development, the RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Garden Planning, Establishment and Maintenance and the RHS Level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture. It consists of 14 mandatory units which cover the following topics:

- Plant classification, structure and function
- Plant nutrition and the properties and management of soils and growing media
- Maintaining plant health through understanding pest, disease and weed lifecycles
- Principles and practices of plant propagation in horticulture
- Principles of garden planning and garden plant selection
- Establishment and maintenance of garden plants and lawns
- Cultural operations and production methods for outdoor vegetable and fruit crops
- Protected environments (greenhouses, polythene tunnels and cold frames) and their use in plant cultivation
- Soil Testing
- Practical skills in ground preparation for seeding and planting
- Sowing seeds and vegetative propagation techniques
- Practical skills in establishing seeds and plants in soil
- Care and pruning of plants
- Identification of a range of common garden plants, weeds, pests, diseases, disorders and beneficial organisms

In addition to the mandatory units, you must also successfully complete **one** of the following optional units. Normally optional units are chosen by the centre offering the course – you should check with the centre to see which optional unit(s) they are offering:

- Sustainable garden practice
- Safe operation of powered garden machinery (for health and safety reasons you must be aged 16 or over to take this unit)

- Establishing, Repairing and Maintaining a Lawn (for health and safety reasons you must be aged 16 or over to take this unit)
- Practical Skills in Vegetable Growing
- Practical Skills in the Maintenance of Established Soft Fruit
- Practical Skills in the Maintenance of Established Top Fruit

Who is the qualification intended for?

The qualification is intended for those wishing to work in professional horticulture in a variety of roles. It is designed to provide a broad underpinning knowledge of plants and horticultural practices as well as to develop essential horticultural skills. It is suitable for those wishing to enter horticultural employment for the first time; for those who are already working in horticulture who want to develop their knowledge and skills; and for those who wish to progress to further horticultural study at level 3. The units in the qualification are designed for part-time study so it is particularly suitable for those who are working in the industry and wishing to study part-time in order to progress their careers or prepare for further study at level 3. It is also suitable for those who wish to enter horticulture as a change of career and are seeking the necessary foundation knowledge and skills.

There is no pre-requisite knowledge needed for entry to the qualification.

What can the qualification lead to?

The qualification can lead to employment in the following roles:

Gardener in private, public, or botanic gardens, or parks and urban green spaces

Plant propagator in commercial plant production

Production assistant in fruit or vegetable growing

Garden Centre assistant

The qualification supports progression to further learning on level 3 courses in horticulture.

Who supports the qualification?

The qualification is supported by Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the Environmental and Land-based Sector, as meeting an entry requirement to the industry and as being suitable to those working in the industry and wishing to upgrade their knowledge.

The qualification is recognised by the Chartered Institute of Horticulture as contributing towards the academic component of their entry criteria – see the following link:

<http://www.horticulture.org.uk/page.php?pageid=557>

The qualification provides a suitable foundation for further study on the RHS Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Plant Growth, Health and Applied Propagation, the RHS Level 3 Certificate in

the Principles of Garden Planning, Construction and Planting, the RHS level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture or on equivalent level 3 horticulture courses.

It also contributes to meeting the entry requirements of specialist horticultural training programmes such as the RHS Level 3 Diploma in Horticultural Practices.

Further Information

More detailed information on the qualification structure and content is provided in the Qualification Specification available from the RHS website:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/Education-Learning/Qualifications-and-Training/RHS-qualifications/Level-2/Diploma-in-the-Principles-and-Practice>