
Statement of Qualification Purpose

RHS Level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture

Qualification Number: 501/0207/2

Level: 2

Content

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. The qualification consists of six mandatory units which cover the following topics:

- 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 range of 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 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 advance 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 skills.

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

What can the qualification lead to?

If you achieve this qualification, you will have gained a range of practical horticultural skills relevant to employment in various roles in the horticultural sector, such as a gardener in private, public, or botanic gardens or parks and urban green spaces

The qualification supports progression to further learning on level 3 courses in horticulture, for example, the RHS Level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture.

Who supports the qualification?

The qualification is supported by Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the Environmental and Land-based Sector, and by a number of specialist land-based colleges.

The qualification provides a suitable foundation for further study on the RHS Level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture or on equivalent level 3 horticulture courses.

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/Certificate-in-Practical-Horticulture>