
Statement of Qualification Purpose

RHS Level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture

Qualification Number: 500/9782/9

Level: 3

Overview

The Level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture provides a route to employment in professional horticulture by assessing a range of essential horticultural skills, and supports career development for those already working in the profession. It also provides a foundation for further training in the field of horticulture.

Content

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

- Soil testing 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

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:

- Planning, collecting, preparing and establishing propagation material
- Management of green spaces, landscaped areas, and ornamental gardens

Assessment takes place within the Approved Centre delivering the course.

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 4. 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 4. It is also suitable for those who wish to enter horticulture as a change of career and are seeking the necessary skills.

The qualification builds on the skills covered in the RHS Level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture. Although there are no formal pre-requisites for entry to the qualification, it is strongly recommended that students have studied the content covered by the Level 2 Certificate or an equivalent level 2 qualification in practical horticultural skills.

The qualification is suitable for candidates aged over 18.

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 head gardener or supervisor in private, public, or botanic gardens or parks and urban green spaces. The skills are also relevant to those currently working in, or seeking employment in, commercial plant production.

The qualification, when combined with appropriate level 3 horticultural knowledge qualifications, supports progression to further learning on level 4 courses in horticulture, or entry to specialist horticultural training programmes such as the Wisley Diploma in Practical Horticulture.

Who supports the qualification?

The qualification is supported by Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the Environmental and Land-based Sector, by the Chartered Institute of Horticulture, the professional body representing all sectors of horticulture in the UK, by major employers in horticulture, such as the National Trust and the City of London, and by a number of specialist land-based colleges.

Related qualifications

The RHS Level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture is a standalone qualification that focuses on the key horticultural skills relevant to a range of sectors. It forms part of a suite of three complementary qualifications which together provide broad coverage of the principles and practices of horticulture.

Related qualifications:

RHS Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Plant Growth, Health and Applied Propagation

RHS Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Garden Planning, Construction and Planting

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-3/Certificate-in-Practical-Horticulture>