
Statement of Qualification Purpose

RHS Level 3 Diploma in the Principles and Practices of Horticulture

Qualification Number: 601/7189/3

Level: 3

Content

The RHS Level 3 Diploma in the Principles and Practices of Horticulture provides a route to employment in professional horticulture by assessing knowledge of the principles underpinning horticultural practices as well as developing a range of horticultural skills. It supports career development for those already working in the profession and also provides a foundation for further learning or training in the field of horticulture.

The qualification consists of 12 mandatory units which cover the following topics:

- Plant taxonomy, structure and function
- Plant nutrition and growing systems
- The management of plant health
- Applied plant propagation
- Garden survey techniques and design principles
- The selection and use of landscaping elements in the garden
- Setting out and construction of landscaping elements
- Specialist elements in garden and urban plantings
- 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

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 an understanding of the knowledge underpinning horticultural practices and the development of a range of 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 further; 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 to gain the necessary knowledge.

The qualification builds on the knowledge and skills covered in the RHS Level 2 Diploma in the Principles and Practices of 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 Diploma or an equivalent level 2 qualification in horticulture.

What can the qualification lead to?

If you achieve this qualification, you will have gained a wide range of horticultural knowledge and 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 qualification supports progression to further learning on level 4 courses in horticulture or entry onto various specialist horticultural training programmes, such as the Wisley Diploma in Practical Horticulture. The qualification meets the academic requirements for entry to the Master of Horticulture (RHS). Note that entry to the Master of Horticulture also requires that candidates have at least four years of work experience in a professional horticultural environment, one of which should be in a supervisory role or a position of relevant responsibility.

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.

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/Diploma>