

Winterbourne Centre for Horticulture

RHS Level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture

Costs: Course Fee £735, RHS Examination Fee: £112

29 Saturdays from 29th September 2018, usually from 10.30am-3.30pm (see overleaf for details)

Course summary

This course is ideal for the keen amateur gardener and for those wishing to work in professional horticulture in a variety of roles. It is an in-depth practical course designed for those that wish to gain a range of practical horticultural skills including propagation, establishing and maintaining plants. You will also identify garden plants, pests and diseases.

Course content

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

- Soil Testing
- Sowing seeds and vegetative propagation techniques
- Practical skills in ground preparation for seeding and planting
- 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.

- Sustainable garden practice
- Safe operation of powered garden machinery*
- Establishing, Repairing and Maintaining a Lawn*
- Practical Skills in Vegetable Growing
- Practical Skills in the Maintenance of Established Soft Fruit
- Practical Skills in the Maintenance of Established Top Fruit

*For health and safety reasons you must be aged 16 or over to take this unit

Assessment

Assessment is ongoing through the achievement of a number of practical activities and underpinning knowledge questions relating to the units studied. We feel that undertaking the assessments is essential to engaging in the course fully, and therefore require students to register for examinations at the time of enrolment.

Entry requirements

There are no formal entry requirements needed to study the Level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture, however an interest in and enthusiasm for horticulture and gardening is essential. Please also note that as this is a practical course, it does make physical demands, including digging. This course is expected to be over-subscribed as space is limited, therefore current students of Winterbourne Centre for Horticulture and those who applied for a space on the course in 2017 will be given priority. Remaining spaces will be allocated to new applicants in order of receipt.

Progression

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 2 certificates and level 3 courses in horticulture, for example, the RHS Level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture.

Course Dates

This course will take place on 29 Saturdays from September 2018 to June 2019. We intend to run lessons on the following dates, but additional dates may become necessary should staff sickness or other unforeseeable events prevent one of these lessons from taking place.

Autumn Term 2018

September 29th; October 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th; November 10th, 17th, 24th; December 1st, 8th

Spring Term 2019

January 12th, 19th, 26th; February 2nd, 9th, 16th; March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th; April 6th, 13th

Summer Term 2019

May 11th, 18th; June 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

Most lessons will run from 10.30am until 3.30pm with a half hour break for lunch, but for four weeks during December and January lessons will finish at 2.30pm to account for the fading light.

Additional Information

You will be required to wear suitable clothing for working outside and to provide your own protective footwear and gloves.

Any absence, anticipated or unforeseen, could result in delay to your completing the qualification and receiving your certificate. There is limited leeway to reschedule practical and written assessments on an individual basis during the course. Your missed assessments would be re-scheduled in due course, but the taught element of the class would be lost.