

Winterbourne Centre for Horticulture

RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Plant Growth and Development

Costs: The cost of this course is £1305 including initial assessment costs.

Lessons: Thursdays from mid September 2025, running 10am-3.15pm (includes 45 min lunch). You will need to set aside time for homework between lessons.

Course summary

This theory course is intended for those for those that wish to work in professional horticulture or would like to increase their personal horticultural skills.

The course provides learners with a solid theoretical grounding and understanding of the science of plants – looking at how they function, nutrition and health adaptations. Learners will also develop an understanding of a variety of roles in the horticultural industry.

Course content

The qualification consists of eight topics split into two units. The units cover underpinning knowledge of the following topics:

UNIT 1

- Plant Science 1 – plant structure and function
- Plant Health – factors affecting plant health
- Plant Nutrition – plant nutrition and growing media
- Plant Specification – matching plant needs and site requirements

UNIT 2

- Plant Science 2 – range and role of plant adaptations
- Planting Styles – range of horticultural plantings
- Horticulture and Society – social, environmental, and economic contribution
- Biodiversity – applied knowledge of habitats encouraging biodiversity

Assessment

Assessment is by written examination through two in person exams that cover the content of the units being studied. Each exam is 120 minutes long. Examinations will be sat in February and in June. Examination fees are included in the cost of the course but further costs will be incurred if resits are needed.

Entry requirements

There are no formal entry requirements needed to study the RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture. A good standard of written English is required to successfully sit the examinations.

Progression

You could progress on to other Level 2 certificates in horticulture; for example the RHS Level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture; or on to Level 3 study.

Please note, successful completion of both Certificates at Level 2 entitles you to achieve the RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles and Practices of Horticulture.

Deposit details

Course Title	Course Fees	Deposit Amount	Second Payment	Final Payment
RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Plant Growth and Development	£1305	£550	£380	£375

Course Dates

This course will take place on Thursdays September 2025 to June 2026. Lessons take place from 10am – 3.15pm and include a 45 minute lunch break.

Planned dates are listed below but please note that advertised dates are subject to change should a class need to be cancelled or postponed.

Please note that exam dates cannot be rescheduled

Thursdays

September 18th, 25th,

October 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

November 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th,

December 4th, 11th, 18th,

January 15th, 22nd, 29th,

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February 5th, 12th, 26th, (unit 1 exam likely 9th Feb)

March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th,

April 9th, 23rd, 30th

May 7th, 14th, 21st,

June 4th, 11th, 18th, (unit 2 exam likely 23rd June)