



## **Level 2 Apprenticeship Standard– Horticulture Operative**

### **Introduction to programme:**

This qualification is suitable for anyone working in a horticulture/soft landscaping industry including the establishment and maintenance of plants and cultivated area and therefore focuses on plant propagation and plant growth. The work is generally based outside and undertaken throughout the year, so apprentices will frequently work outside in all weathers. Often people new to the industry will start in a 'hands-on' role covering a range of practical tasks, with specialist skills being learnt through progression. A wide range of machinery and tools are used and additional training may be required depending on the nature of the works undertaken.

Working and learning in the horticulture industry is rewarding, offers a diverse range of employment opportunities and includes a range of skills that are transferrable into many other industries.

### **Duration of Apprenticeship:**

A Horticulture Operative apprenticeship will typically take 18-24 months to complete. However, this may be reduced if an apprentice has already gained knowledge and skills working within a horticulture/soft landscaping/grounds maintenance role.

### **Entry Requirements:**

Entry requirements will be determined by individual employers but typically potential apprentices will have a minimum of 5 GCSE's at Grades A-D (including Maths and English and Science) or other equivalent vocational qualifications. Employers, who recruit apprentices without the above levels of qualifications, will have to ensure they achieve level 1 in English and maths as part of their Apprenticeship.

### **Costs:**

Costs will be dependent on several factors such as age of apprentice, size of employer (no. of employees), work location and level of experience in the sector. Incentives may be available for some employers. Please contact us for more information.

### **Core Qualifications**

The following qualifications will be required prior to taking the end point assessments:

- Emergency First Aid
- Pesticides: Level 2 Principals of the Safe Handling and Application or Pesticides Guidance OR Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides

### **End Point Assessment**

The End Point Assessment will contain 3 components: – all components must be passed for the apprentice to meet the apprenticeship standard.

- a) An online knowledge test to be taken at the end of the apprenticeship programme in controlled conditions.
- b) A synoptic practical assessment
- c) Professional Discussion



## ***Required skills, knowledge and behaviours to complete this apprenticeship***

### **Core knowledge - have an understanding of:**

**Industry understanding;** the importance and benefits of green-space and the types of horticultural skills appropriate to different businesses and cultural sites.

**Business;** business policies, vision and values. Workers' contribution to earning profit and awareness of commercial pressure. Understanding of how project management informs a team to achieve objectives.

**Communication;** the importance of clear communication. Knowledge of different forms of communication aids and their use. The value of effective and timely communication in customer care.

**Health and safety;** health and safety regulation, legislation, policy and procedure and the responsibility of workers. Knowledge of hazards and working to strict health, safety, quality and environmental (HSQE) processes particularly appropriate to horticultural sites.

**Environmental;** waste and waste reduction/recycling and environmental best practice. Prevention and control of local pollution incidents.

**Plant growth and development;** plant nutrition and plant requirements. The principles of germination, photosynthesis, respiration and transpiration (the science of plant growth). How to care for plants correctly in different environments. The relationship between environmental conditions and plant growth.

**Tools, equipment and machinery;** correct tools, equipment and machinery required for the job and the importance of maintenance / regular checks of these items to ensure they remain in good working order. Legal requirement of training by a competent person and familiarity with operator training and certification requirements.

**Vegetation control;** how to control vegetation and methods of site clearance and removal of vegetation.

**Biosecurity;** biosecurity and phytosanitary measures for pests and diseases and how these apply to work sites. Awareness of invasive alien species that may impact work methods.

**Plant identification;** plant identification by scientific names including genus, species and cultivar. Know why and how plants are identified.

**Soil science;** why, when and how to cultivate soils for differing purposes. Different growing media and mulches. How to modify soils for plant growth and understand the reasons for cultivation and drainage.

**Plant health;** basic pest & disease identification/symptoms and control methods.

**Additional horticulture knowledge;** The range and application of different growing media for plant production and propagation. The principles and methods of watering techniques including irrigation systems and hand watering. Ornamental turf management through basic maintenance; including mowing, aeration, scarification, and top dressing. How to monitor for issues including damage, water issues, pests and diseases Ornamental aquatic environments including organic matter control both inside and around the feature and monitoring for any maintenance or safety issues.



### **Core skills – able to:**

**Communication;** communicate with others, including clients, the public and colleagues, this may require basic IT systems use.

**Team working;** work alone and as part of a team effectively and recognise how all staff are dependent on each other to meet business objectives.

**Health and safety;** apply relevant health and safety processes and procedures. Implement specific industry information on hazards relevant to horticultural environments. Follow safe systems of work and safety information provided by employer. Implement environmental protection policies and procedures.

**Environmental;** prevent and control local pollution incidents e.g. use of spill kits.

**Planting, plant growth and development;** care for plants correctly in different environments, including basic irrigation methods, planting methods and identifying plant deficiencies. Install various soft-landscape materials e.g. shrubs, trees, herbaceous, bedding, grass areas and seed. This will include site preparation, planting, sowing, turfing, preparation of seed beds and mulching.

**Soil cultivation;** cultivate and improve soils by mechanical methods and by hand, making and amelioration of growing media and soils.

**Tools, equipment and machinery;** safely use tools e.g. spades, rakes, shovels; equipment e.g. tape measure and spirit level and machinery e.g. pedestrian controlled mowers, hand held strimmer, hedgecutter.

**Vegetation control;** follow processes and methods of site clearance, using tools and machinery for pruning and vegetation control, including basic turf management. Follow weed control methods.

**Maintain hard structures;** maintain structures relevant to the business activities.

**Site presentation;** work to a specified finish.

**Additional horticulture skills;** Undertake correct pruning techniques for a range of plants. Cultivate and maintain soft-landscape elements e.g. shrubs, trees, herbaceous, bedding, grass areas and seed. Assist the establishment of an area of turf through laying, irrigation, maintenance, and allowing appropriate establishment time before use. Undertake basic propagation skills including division, cuttings, seed sowing and seed collection. Work without causing damage to features present such as irrigation, turf and aquatic environments.

### **Core behaviours**

**Health and safety;** have a safety-led mind-set for self, colleagues and the public.

**Customer care;** show dignity, respect and empathy when dealing with others, including clients, the public and colleagues.

**Learn;** learn behaviours, skills and knowledge effectively from craftspeople and managers.

**Attitude;** have a positive and motivated attitude towards work, including having pride in one's work.

**Decision making;** adopt a pragmatic timely approach by identifying appropriate solutions to practical problems.



**How to apply**

To apply for this course, complete a Myerscough College Application Form. You can either contact the Employer Services Team or download one from the website.

Please return the completed application form to:

Employer Services, Myerscough College, Bilsborrow, Preston, PR3 0RY

Or email the completed electronic form to [wbapplications@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:wbapplications@myerscough.ac.uk)

**Telephone:** 01995 642255

**Email:** [employerenquiries@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:employerenquiries@myerscough.ac.uk)

**Website:** [www.myerscough.ac.uk](http://www.myerscough.ac.uk)