



Level:	Intermediate Apprenticeship (Level 2)
Typical Duration:	24 Months
Delivery Model:	Work-based supported by Workshops
Delivery Location:	North West Only
Start Date:	Throughout the Year



Introduction to the 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

This apprenticeship will typically take 24 months to complete. The length may be altered if the apprentice has already gained knowledge and skills working in this sector.



Entry requirements

Employers set the selection criteria for their apprentices. Typically, this will include a minimum of 5 GCSE's at Grade 9-4, or equivalent, including English and Maths. Apprentices without level 1 Functional Skills will need to achieve this level as part of their apprenticeship.

In addition, it is desirable that the apprentice has a basic understanding of Information and Communication Technology.



Costs

Costs will be dependent on several factors such as age of apprentice and size of employer. The cost may be altered if the apprentice has already gained knowledge and skills working in this sector. Please contact us for more information.



Delivery Location

Delivery is work-based supported by Workshops at Myerscough College, Preston Campus approximately once a month. College attendance will count towards the 20% off the job training requirement. An apprentice will also need to attend college courses to complete the required qualifications.



Qualifications

The following qualifications would be required prior to end point assessment:

- Level 3 award in emergency first aid at work.
- Pesticides: Level 2 Principles of Safe Handling and Application of Pesticides Guidance OR Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides

To comply with legislation / industry standards, individuals who wish to work in some sectors of the industry may have to complete additional certificates of training, statutory licences and health and safety approved competency cards in order to be permitted on to a worksite.



Knowledge, Skills & Behaviour gained

Throughout the programme, apprentices will work towards gaining the following knowledge, skills & behaviours:

Knowledge

Have a knowledge 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.

Skills

Have the ability 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.

Behaviours

Have the required behaviours including:

- 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



End Point Assessment

At a point where employer, tutor and apprentice feel is appropriate, apprentices will undertake an end point assessment, which is carried out by a separate approved organisation, independent from Myerscough College.

The end point assessment will contain 3 components:

- Online Knowledge Test
- Synoptic Practical Assessment
- Professional Discussion

There will be 2 levels of achievement: Pass & Distinction



How to apply

In order to start the enrolment process we need an **Online Application Form** to be completed & submitted. You can do this by contacting the Employer Services Team.

Telephone: 01995 642255, Email: employerenquiries@myerscough.ac.uk

Website: www.myerscough.ac.uk