



**Horticulture Operative**

**Level 2 Standard**



# Horticulture Operative Level 2

## Included Qualifications

### Planning and maintaining large gardens, parks and other green spaces

Horticulture Operatives can be employed to work in public parks and gardens, green spaces and historic gardens, private gardens and estates or in production nurseries and retail outlets. Many businesses will be specialised in their activities, such as grounds maintenance (soft-landscape). Soft-landscaping includes the establishment and maintenance of plants and cultivated areas, focusing on plant propagation and plant growth.

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.

Grey Seal support Horticulture Operatives to have the knowledge, skills and behaviours to deliver on their responsibilities and personally develop within their role. They will learn new ideas, theories and methods as well as consolidating existing knowledge and experience. Having this knowledge and with the support of their Trainer they will have the confidence to put new knowledge into practice.

### Course Design and Training Delivery

The apprentice should produce a portfolio of evidence on-programme that meets the requirements of the training specification. The portfolio should contain employer appraisals, apprentice journal, practical and knowledge tests. More detail of content is on the following pages

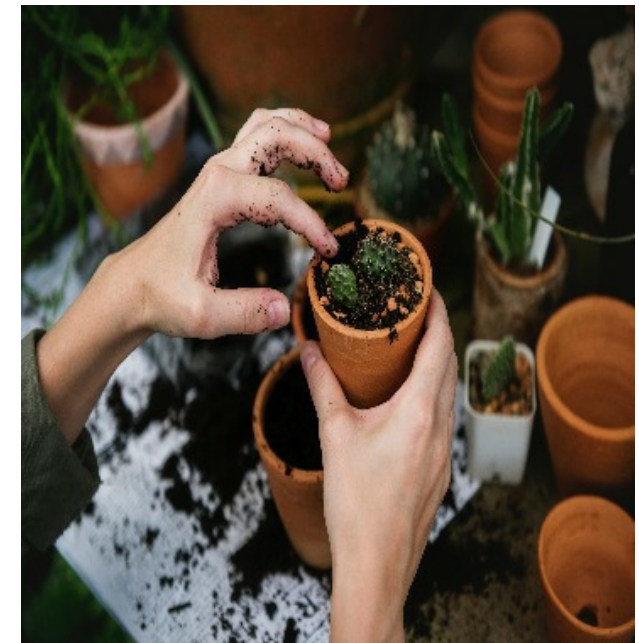
Delivery will be largely face to face in groups and individual one to ones although also could be supplemented by video conferencing and telephone sessions. Learners will have an electronic portfolio which could be supplemented with paper based materials as required

There is additional learning support available for learners that need it, which may take the form of increased one to one support or alternative learning materials

Emergency first aid: Level 2 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

English & maths: Apprentices without level 2 English and maths must achieve level 1 and take the test for level 2 before taking the end-point assessment



# HORTICULTURE OPERATIVE LEVEL 2 MODULES

## MODULES

## KNOWLEDGE

**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

**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 requirements. Principles of germination, photosynthesis, respiration and transpiration (science of plant growth). How to care for plants correctly in different environments. Relationship between environment and growth

# HORTICULTURE OPERATIVE LEVEL 2 MODULES

## MODULES

## KNOWLEDGE

**Tools, equipment and machinery**

Correct tools, equipment and machinery and the importance of maintenance / regular checks of these items. 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

# HORTICULTURE OPERATIVE LEVEL 2 MODULES

## Additional knowledge and skills for horticulture

- 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.
- 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.



# Summary of Assessment

The standard and assessment plan is for a horticulture / landscape operative working in public parks and gardens, green spaces and historic gardens, commercial premises, private gardens and estates.

The approach is based on the following principles:

On programme and end point assessment processes motivates apprenticeships to achieve excellence and not just satisfy the minimum standard

The assessment process adds value to both the apprentice and employer allowing progression of learning and development of core business

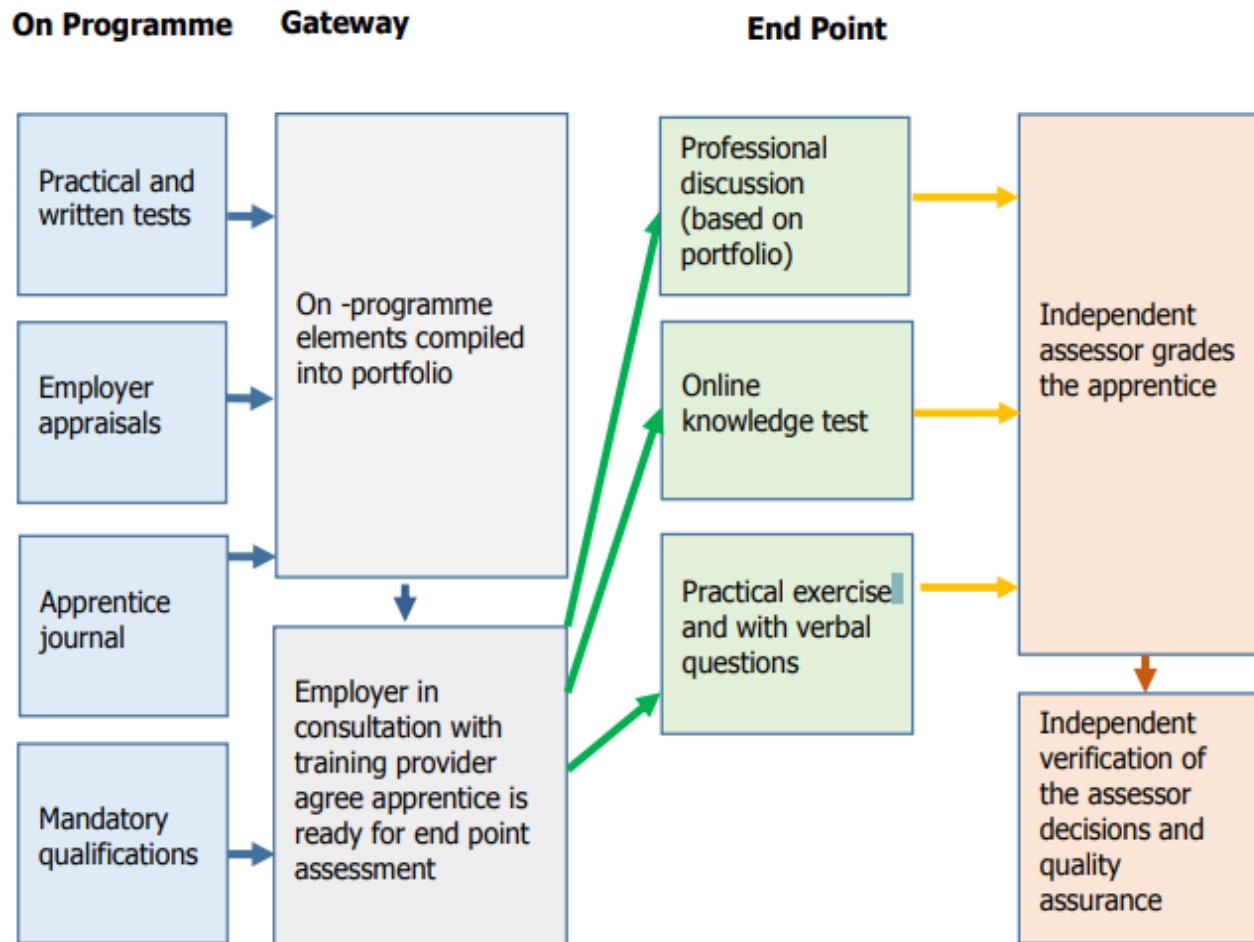
It links to industry developed recognised qualifications that enable and encourage progression and continuous development of skills and knowledge

The assessment methods ensure that apprentices have a fair opportunity to meet the minimum required standards

Employers are engaged in the assessment process as they work closely with the apprentices

The assessment is cost efficient, practical and proportionate in time for employers

The apprentice will produce a portfolio of evidence on-programme. The portfolio should contain employer appraisals, apprentice journal, practical and knowledge tests





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