

## **Basic Horticulture Courses in Scotland**

*Overview of Courses Compiled November 2009*

There are many levels and types of horticulture qualifications available in Scotland and they come in many forms:

Informal /Short courses

City & Guilds Qualification

SVQ Qualifications;

Undergraduate & Post Graduate study

Student Centred Courses with awards.

### **Course Finder Tools**

Because of the diverse range of horticultural courses available and the variety of course providers and methods of delivery it may be useful to use an online course finding tool e.g. For example:

Careers Scotland provides a search tool for courses:

<http://www.careers-scotland.org.uk/Education/CourseSearch/Courses.asp>

LANTRA, the sector skills council for the environment and land based sector, provide an online search tool for finding training courses on their web pages at

<http://www.lantracoursefinder.co.uk/DefaultNew.aspx>

You can also use course finder by sending your query to the Lantra CourseFinder team at: [coursefinder@lantra.co.uk](mailto:coursefinder@lantra.co.uk); or speaking to a person, not a machine by calling 0845 707 8007, Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm

Hot Courses provides a search for courses at all levels:

<http://www.hotcourses.com/community/homePage.jsp?x=16180339&y=&a=0>

A useful searchable list of short (and longer) horticulture courses is available on:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/htbg2/gofurther/scotland/index.shtml>

Many courses may not be listed online especially those that are demand-led or short courses provided by local authorities, community and adult learning organisations. See local Council web pages for contacts in these areas.

## **Informal and Short Horticultural Courses**

Many informal and short courses are provided by a variety of organisations from local gardening groups to colleges; national societies; and local authorities (through local community and adult learning organisations). Many adult learning courses (usually run by local councils) include gardening as an optional course and many further education colleges include gardening/garden design as an evening class. There are also voluntary sector lifelong learning organisations such as WEA, which run short courses, often including gardening. Several short (and longer) courses are listed at:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/htbg2/gofurther/scotland/index.shtml>

### *Organic Gardening Courses*

Bridgend Allotments, Edinburgh, see their website at:

<http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/community/edinburghCHPs/SouthEdinburghCHP/localhealthpartnershipSE/SEE/allot.asp>

The basic Introduction to Organic Vegetable Gardening course consists of a series of eight two-hour modules. This is available to groups of up to ten people, and can be delivered either at the allotments, or elsewhere. In conjunction with the Soil Association, we also hold one-day Gardening Beginners' Workshops. There is a charge for this, which includes Soil Association membership

BTCV, based in Stirling, for details see <http://www.hotcourses.com/uk-courses/organic-gardening-training-courses-btcv-institute-for-environmental-conservation/16180339/0/7230/SE.3/O,P,B,Z,Y,U,C/any/county/scotland/all/list.htm>

### *Introduction to Gardening Courses*

Suntrap Garden, Edinburgh

<http://www.suntrap-garden.org.uk/eveningclasses.html>

Other Short Courses & Workshops at Suntrap Garden, Edinburgh

<http://www.suntrap-garden.org.uk/courses.html> , including Design your own Garden.

Short Courses at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

<http://www.rbge.org.uk/education/horticulture-botany-and-environment/education/horticulture-botany-and-environment/horticulture>

Basic Training in Horticulture – The Growing Communities in Scotland Partnership (between Trellis, the FCFCG and ARI) offer courses - see Trellis web pages for further information <http://www.trellisscotland.org.uk>

### *Other short course providers*

FEVA (Environmental Volunteering Forum) may advertise horticultural courses

<http://www.feva-scotland.org/display/home>

“Getting the Most from your Garden’ at Crieff High School, which is run by Strathlearning, a small voluntary organisation based in Crieff. The course runs for eight weeks in the autumn and is repeated in January. Details available at <http://strathlearning.wordpress.com/courses/>

Orkney College also provide gardening evening classes contact Clive Chaddock at Orkney College, <http://www.orkney.uhi.ac.uk/>

Many garden centres and private companies provide short gardening courses e.g. Kirklands House, Saline, Fife, their web pages can be found at:  
<http://www.kirklandshouseandgarden.co.uk/courses/gardening-courses.php>  
 How to be a Gardener Part 1 is an online basic gardening course available at the BBC web pages: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/htbg/module1/index.shtml>

## City & Guilds Qualifications

The National Proficiency Test Council ([www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk)) web pages list types of Horticultural City & Guilds qualifications available in the UK:

Name	No.	Type	Level
Horticultural Skills	9352	Vocational	1
Land-based Studies	0360	Vocational	1
Horticulture	0220	Vocational	2
Certificate in Gardening	0062	Vocational	2
National and Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture	0345	Vocational	2,3
Sports and Amenity Turf Maintenance	0281	Vocational	2
Ancillary Operations for Sports and Amenity Turf Operators	0281	Vocational	2
Working Safely in Agriculture/Horticulture	0314-02	Vocational	2
Controlling Risks to Health & Safety in Agriculture/Horticulture	0314-03	Vocational	3
Managing Health & Safety in Agriculture/Horticulture	0314-04	Vocational	4
Horticulture	0328	NVQ	1
Production Horticulture	0212	NVQ	2,3
Amenity Horticulture	0329	NVQ	2,3

The Level 1 Certificate in Horticultural Skills has been designed to provide an accredited qualification for people working in horticulture. It is suitable for 14-16 year olds or for adults looking for progression or a change in career and provides a valuable route towards an NVQ/SVQ. The qualification can be taken as a whole or in units and as such it is suitable for Continuous Professional Development. For further details see <http://www.cityandguilds.com/1973.html>

Whilst the Level 2 Certificate in Horticulture has been designed for candidates looking for a career in the horticulture industry. The qualification is approved for candidates' aged 16 and over. There are no pre-requisites to take the qualification however an interest in the vocational area is essential. The qualification is approved for UK funding. There are five specific routes a candidate may take: Arboriculture (225 GLH); Hard Landscape and Garden Construction (180); Turf Care (220); Organic Horticulture (180); Decorative Horticulture and Design (180) Certificate in Gardening (No. 0062) <http://www.cityandguilds.com/1968.html>. The Level 2 Certificate in Gardening is a centre-based qualification covering 125 guided learning hours, taken full-time or part-time or through distance learning. Candidates' take five units chosen from a range of fifteen. Units 1-14 are assessed written papers, unit 15 involves practical assessment.

## **SVQs**

SVQ (Scottish Vocational Qualifications) are available in various aspects of Horticulture: Amenity, Community and Commercial. These courses are often available at local colleges. For full information on local colleges offering SVQ's please contact your local college of further education or search online using a search engine or a course finder tool as listed on page 1.

Some examples of colleges providing SVQ courses in horticulture include e.g.:

### *Barony College, Dumfries*

<http://www.barony.ac.uk/Courses/CourseDetails.aspx?pid=80&ppid=35>

Full Time Courses: National Certificate Horticulture; Rural Skills; National Diploma in Horticulture. Work-based Training: SVQ 2 Amenity Horticulture; SVQ 3 Amenity Horticulture.

### *Dundee College*

<http://www.dundeecollege.ac.uk/Courses/Course-Search?CourseType=16>

SVQ Amenity Horticulture Levels 1 - 3

Introduction to Hard & Soft Landscape Gardening

NQ Hard & Soft Landscape Gardening

### *Langside College, Glasgow*

[http://www.langside.ac.uk/LS\\_Course\\_Finder.asp](http://www.langside.ac.uk/LS_Course_Finder.asp)

### *Orkney College*

<http://www.orkney.uhi.ac.uk/>

Provides SVQ horticulture at levels 1 & 2, contact Clive Chaddock.

In addition to local colleges, some specialist training centres offer horticultural SVQ qualifications, e.g.

### *Parklea Branching Out, Port Glasgow*

<http://www.parkleaassociation.org.uk/training.html>. Here is what they say about it "SVQ Level 1 Horticulture is at a basic level and is achievable for most with a bit of effort. We deliver it to our clients with learning disabilities no problem. Level 2 is different and aimed at people who are able to manage their own portfolio development. We hope to offer this to volunteers, young people and clients who we consider capable of achieving it. It is a good step up from level 1. Each candidate would need to commit two but preferably three days per week for between 6 - 9 months for both levels."

## Colleges and Institutions offering Gardening Courses

Local further education colleges may provide a variety of formal and informal gardening courses including full-time, part-time and leisure classes. Many colleges also offer student centred gardening courses which may be of benefit to students with particular educational, social or health needs such as those with physical and learning difficulties; mental health issues etc. Please see the next section entitled 'Student Centred Awards' for further information.

Listed below is a selection of colleges and institutions offering gardening courses. This is not an exhaustive list and is meant to be illustrative. Please contact individual local colleges for up to date information on courses:

### *Borders College offers horticultural courses:*

<http://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/courses.php?s=4>

### *Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife*

College Certificate in Horticulture [http://www.elmwood.ac.uk/ft\\_horticulture.php](http://www.elmwood.ac.uk/ft_horticulture.php)

### *Forth Valley College, Falkirk*

Landscape Gardening and Horticulture courses:

Home and Allotment Gardening This course will enable participants to gain the skills needed to maintain a home garden or an allotment. It will include the sourcing of information, the terminology used for the production of food crops and soft fruit.

Participants will plan a cropping programme and cultivate a plot with a selection of crop plants. On completion students will gain an SQA Unit at Level 5.

NQ Landscape Gardening/Small Business This Intermediate 2 level course allows individuals to develop the necessary skills and knowledge required to start up a small landscaping business. It includes units in gardening design, soft and hard landscaping, pruning, general maintenance and plant identification. This course also covers a range of business related topics.

### *Langside College, Glasgow*

[http://www.langside.ac.uk/LS\\_Course\\_Finder.asp](http://www.langside.ac.uk/LS_Course_Finder.asp)

'Skills for Work' Rural Skills; City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Horticulture:

Decorative Horticulture & Design; City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Horticulture:

Hard Landscaping & Garden Construction; HNC Horticulture; HND Horticulture; NQ

Horticultural Practices Level 1; NQ Landscape Design; SVQ Horticulture Level 1;

SVQ Horticulture: Amenity Level 2; SVQ Horticulture: Amenity Level 3.

### *Oatridge College, West Lothian*

<http://www.oatridge.ac.uk/courses/horticulture>

HNC in Horticulture (Full Time) this advanced level course is suited to people with horticultural experience that wish to develop their practical, scientific and business management skills. It may also be suitable for mature candidates without a background in the industry.

HNC in Horticulture (Part Time) advanced level course is suited to people with horticultural experience that wish to develop their practical, scientific and business management skills.

SQV Level 2 in Amenity Horticulture is aimed at the new entrant to the industry and covers a broad range of topics including plant establishment, maintenance of plantings, machinery, health and safety.

SQV Level 3 & MA in Amenity Horticulture is aimed at those having some supervisory role and includes management of planted areas, estimating resources, managing information for action.

### *Orkney College*

<http://www.orkney.uhi.ac.uk/>

Contact Clive Chaddock for information on gardening courses at Orkney College

### *Perth College*

[http://www.perth.ac.uk/courses/Pages/PENQNEWSKI\\_1\\_A.aspx](http://www.perth.ac.uk/courses/Pages/PENQNEWSKI_1_A.aspx)

### *Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh*

Range of courses in horticulture, <http://www.rbge.org.uk/education>

### *Royal Horticultural Society*

Offer courses at certificate and diploma level, available at limited venues in Scotland.

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/Courses>

Aberdeen College runs the RHS Correspondence course, which is distance learning:

[http://www.abcol.ac.uk/courses/e-learning/course-detail.cfm?course\\_id=957](http://www.abcol.ac.uk/courses/e-learning/course-detail.cfm?course_id=957)

### *Scottish Agricultural College*

The Scottish Agricultural College offers courses in Horticulture, Landscaping and Garden Design. <http://www.sac.ac.uk/learning/courses/undergraduate/hortland/>

## **Student Centred Awards**

Gardening courses can be adapted to suit many types of students. Many colleges and gardening groups cater for those with specific needs such as physical, mental health or learning difficulties or health and social inequalities. These types of courses or working groups are often not apparent from searching on college web pages and it is best to make specific enquiries about these types of courses. Charitable organisations specialising in working with people with specific needs may also facilitate gardening groups who subscribe to people centred award schemes, so it is worthwhile contacting local and national charitable groups. Listed below are some student centred awards schemes and scheme users that that we are aware of, there will certainly be more going on in local communities across the country.

### *Royal Caledonian Horticulture Society*

RCHS Recognition of Individual Achievement in Horticulture – student centred, based on individual learning plans developed from individual needs. It offers a programme of core horticultural activities and a menu of further optional activities linked to gardening with assessment by a record of feedback.

Contact Margaret Teale at Margaret.Teale@blueyonder.co.uk, 0131 449 6596.

### *Parklea Branching Out, Port Glasgow*

<http://www.parkleaassociation.org.uk/training.html>

Have a full programme developed for the RCHS Award, and are willing to help others with their own development of the award. This can only be offered to those who would not be able to attain level 1 Horticulture City & Guilds Qualification.

### *Dundee College*

Dundee College offers its 'Gardening for all' and horticulture programmes in several specialist initiatives within and outwith the college. Working in partnership with SAMH, NHS Tayside, Social Work Department and community groups, students with physical and learning difficulties and mental health issues work towards SVQ's in horticulture

<http://www.dundeecollege.ac.uk/Courses/Course-Search?CourseType=16>

Contact Gordon Croll Tel: (01382) 834860, Email:enquiry@dundeecollege.ac.uk

### *Towards Independence*

[http://www.asdan.org.uk/towards\\_independence.php](http://www.asdan.org.uk/towards_independence.php)

Towards Independence offers formal recognition for small steps in achievement towards a larger goal. Modules can be used separately and accumulated to build a record of personal achievements. These types of Towards Independence courses are often run by local colleges. There are almost 50 modules to choose from, and the first of these - Starting Out - is mandatory. This module enables learners to be helped to recognise achievements and plan targets and challenges, which can then be developed through further modules. The modules can be divided into themes and many of the modules can fit into more than one themed area e.g.

<b>Independent Living Skills</b>	Everyday Living*; Independent Living; Meal Preparation & Cooking; Money; Using Transport
<b>Personal Development/ Citizenship/PSHE</b>	Knowing About Myself; Citizenship; Relationships; Multi-sensory Experiences*; Coping With People; Getting Ready To Go Out; Getting To Know A Group; Myself and Others*; Self Advocacy; Out In The Community; Recognising And Using Everyday Signs
<b>Work Related</b>	Vocational Training/Experience; Going To College; Horticulture; Personal Safety; Practical Workshop; Using a Computer; Using ICT*; Work Awareness; World Of Work*; Time Management & Self Organisation; Animal Care (including Horse Riding and Stable Management); Business Enterprise

## *WorkSkills Courses*

WorkSkills is a flexible suite of BTEC qualifications suitable for learners of all ages and at all stages of their working lives. WorkSkills builds on the ABC of employability - Attitude, Behaviour and Communication - to develop the skills that employers are looking for and to give learners an edge in a competitive climate.

<http://www.edexcel.com/QUALS/WORKSKILLS/ABOUT/Pages/default.aspx>

For Example, Moray College offers gardening as part of an independence skills course.<http://www.moray.ac.uk/moray-college/what/course-detail.php?course=32> Independence Skills course is a 2 year full time course leading to the NQ Access Level 2 Scottish Group Award (incorporating the Skillstart Scottish Group Award at Access Level 2). The course runs from early September to June each year. There are NO formal entry requirements. The awarding body is SQA. It includes core skills subjects such as Communication and IT and then a choice from a range of other subjects including: Workplace Skills; Art and Craft Work; Gardening; Home Economics; PE; Personal Care; Woodwork.

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