



## RHS LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE IN THE PRINCIPLES OF HORTICULTURE

### What is the RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture?

The Royal Horticultural Society's Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture is an internationally recognised qualification. On successful completion of the examination candidates may choose to continue their studies leading to the Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture. An attractive feature of this course is that it is purely horticultural and students are not required to study non-horticultural subjects as is the case on many other courses on offer.

### Who is eligible?

Anyone over 16 years of age who has an interest in gardening, whether it is with a view to working as a professional horticulturist or just to expand his or her knowledge. Overseas residents are eligible; however they should be aware that the examination is based on British horticultural practices.

### Classes

The classes start in September / October and run until May / June with a break at Christmas.

### We make learning easier!

We at the *Dublin School of Horticulture* believe that students should not have to spend time searching for answers from many different places and that learning is easier and more enjoyable if the course material is well-presented and comprehensive. Following this belief, we have developed our own course notes and employ visual presentations and garden visits to complete an enjoyable learning experience.

### Course material

All course notes are supplied in our Study Packs so there is no necessity to purchase any books. A suggested reading list is included with the first Study Pack.

### Presentation

All lecturers use digital projectors to display notes and slide shows. Visual aids help increase the enjoyment of learning.

Total teaching hours for RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticultural are 120 hours classroom based with an approximate 30 hours in the National Botanic Gardens giving a total of 150 tutored hours.





### Garden visits

Visits to the *National Botanic Gardens* are a feature of our courses which all students enjoy. Seeing plants growing in such a location makes the course more alive. These visits are held at weekends and are included in the course fee.

### When is the exam?

The exam is held each year in February and June at an examination centre in Dublin and some other centres around the country. An exam fee is payable to the *Royal Horticultural Society* and an administration charge to *Dublin School of Horticulture*. And no, you do not have to sit the exam if you decide to enrol with the *Dublin School of Horticulture*. That is up to you to decide. Exam fees and exam administration charges are not included in the cost of the course.

### Who enrolls on this course?

People from different backgrounds, from those who have never studied horticulture and/or gardening, to the more experienced gardeners of all ages. The RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture is ideally suited to interested amateurs, to anyone considering embarking on a career in horticulture or to those who are already working in the horticulture/gardening sector who wish to learn more and obtain a recognised qualification. Whatever your ultimate goal, whether it be professional or purely for personal enjoyment enrolling on the *Dublin School of Horticulture* RHS Level 2 Certificate is the perfect starting point for discovering the wonderful world of horticulture.

### RHS Qualifications Contact Details

RHS Qualifications is the Awarding Organisation of the Royal Horticultural Society

RHS Qualifications,  
RHS Garden Wisley,  
Woking,  
Surrey,  
GU23 6QB  
UK  
Tel: 0044 1 483226500  
Email: [qualifications@rhs.org.uk](mailto:qualifications@rhs.org.uk) Web: [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

THE RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture has been formulated to meet the requirements of QCF

QCF (Qualifications and Credit Framework) is a jointly regulated qualifications and framework for England (OFQUAL), Wales (DECELLS), and Northern Ireland (CCEA):

- To ensure a wider range of achievements are recognised within a more inclusive national qualifications framework
- Establish a national qualifications framework that is easier for all users to understand
- Reduce the burden of bureaucracy in the accreditation and assessment of qualifications



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## The Royal Horticultural Society

### Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture

The RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture is part of a progressive programme of horticultural certificates awarded by the *Royal Horticultural Society*. Successful candidates can then proceed to the RHS Level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture (15 Credits) and through a combination of Credits attained (43 Credits) achieve the RHS Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture. This is a new syllabus replacing the former RHS Level 2 Syllabus. Below is a summary of the units on offer.

**For further information see:**

[www.rhs.org](http://www.rhs.org): Courses – Qualifications and click on *More on the new qualifications*

\* Examinations can be sat either in February or July.

### Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Garden Planning, Establishment and Maintenance

**Title: Understanding Garden Features, Plant Selection and Planning**

Unit Code: F/601/0251

Unit Level: Level 2

Credit Value: 5

**Learning Outcomes** – The learner will:

- Know how to carry out and record a garden survey.
- Know how to carry out a site appraisal and record essential data.
- Understand basic garden planning principles and the elements that contribute to a good design.
- Understand the characteristics of accepted garden design styles.
- Understand the effective and appropriate use of hard landscaping materials.
- Understand the effective use of soft landscaping elements.
- Understand how to incorporate key elements into a cohesive design.
- Understand the importance of safe, healthy, environmentally-sensitive and sustainable development of garden sites.



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## **Title: Understanding the Choice, Establishment and Maintenance of Garden Plants and Lawns**

Unit Code: T/601/0263

Unit Level: Level 2

Credit Value: 3

**Learning Outcomes** – The learner will:

- Understand the choice of plants for seasonal display and their establishment and maintenance.
- Understand the choice of herbaceous perennial plants and 'bulbs' for display, and how to grow them.
- Understand the choice of woody plants for display and their establishment and maintenance.
- Understand the choice of alpine and rock garden plants and how to grow them.
- Understand the planting and maintenance of a garden pool.
- Understand the establishment and maintenance of lawns.

## **Title: Understanding the Production of Outdoor Vegetables and Fruit**

Unit Code: A/601/0264

Unit Level: Level 2

Credit Value: 3

**Learning Outcomes** – The learner will:

- Know the importance of site selection for outdoor food production in a garden or allotment.
- Understand the cultural operations used to produce outdoor food crops in a garden or allotment.
- Understand the principles of vegetable crop production.
- Understand the production of top and soft fruit for a garden or allotment.





## **Title: Understanding Protected Environments and their Use in Plant Cultivation**

Unit Code: L/601/0267

Unit Level: Level 2

Credit Value: 3

### **Learning Outcomes – The learner will:**

- Know a range of types of protected structures, and their use in growing plants.
- Know the environment provided by a range of protected structures.
- Know the structural and cladding materials used for a range of protected structures.
- Understand the control of the environment in protected structures.
- Know the types of container and growing media used for production and display in protected environments.
- Understand the horticultural uses of the protected environment.
- Understand the care of plants in an interior situation.





## **Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Plant Growth, Propagation and Development**

### **Title: Plant Classification, Structure and Function**

Unit Code: H/601/0307

Unit Level: Level 2

Credit Value: 5

**Learning Outcomes** – The learner will:

- Know the basic classification and taxonomy of plants.
- Know the stages of plant development and life cycles.
- Know the structure and function of plant cells and tissues.
- Know the function of the external vegetative parts of the plant.
- Know the function of the reproductive parts of the plant.
- Know the function of fruits and seeds.
- Understand the importance of photosynthesis and respiration.
- Understand the movement of water and minerals through the plant.
- Understand plant growth and development relationships.





## Title: Plant Nutrition and the Root Environment

Unit Code: A/601/0314

Unit Level: Level 2

Credit Value: 3

**Learning Outcomes** – The learner will:

- Understand the importance of using safe, healthy and environmentally sustainable practices.
- Know the main horizons found in soil profiles.
- Know the physical properties of soil.
- Understand the factors that determine the water status in the soil.
- Understand the importance of organic matter and living soil organisms in the root environment.
- Understand the importance of soil pH.
- Understand plant nutrition provided by soil and growing media.
- Understand the uses of alternative growing media.

## Title: Maintaining Plant Health

Unit Code: K/601/0342

Unit Level: Level 2

Credit Value: 3

**Learning Outcomes** – The learner will:

- Understand the importance of using safe, healthy and environmentally sustainable practices for the maintenance of plant health.
- Understand the problems posed by weeds in horticulture and how these problems can be minimised.
- Know the problems posed by pests in horticulture and ways in which these can be minimised.
- Know the problems posed by diseases in horticulture and ways in which these can be minimised.
- Know the problems posed by plant disorders in horticulture and ways in which these can be minimised.





## Title: Understanding Plant Propagation

Unit Code: M/601/0343

Unit Level: Level 2

Credit Value: 3

### Learning Outcomes – The learner will:

- Understand how plant physiology affects the ways in which plants can be propagated.
- Understand the appropriate methods of harvesting and storing different types of seed.
- Understand the conditions required for successful plant propagation from seed.
- Understand the conditions required for successful plant propagation from cuttings.
- Understand how to propagate specific plants using appropriate vegetative techniques.

We teach the RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture in its entirety. Elements from different parts are taught together. We see this as being especially beneficial when it comes to learning about plants and their botanical names. Although the different units are examined separately, each subject has relevance to others and only by studying them all can a full understanding and appreciation of plants and their growth be achieved. This knowledge can then be applied to practical situations. The aim of the course is to understand basic horticultural and scientific principles and apply these principles to everyday gardening and horticultural practices.



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# DUBLIN SCHOOL *of* HORTICULTURE



Learning | Enjoying | Growing

## CLASSES SCHEDULE FOR AUTUMN 2012

### RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture

| Option       | Venue                                     | Weekdays       | Dates                       | Times          |
|--------------|---|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Day/Dublin   | Taney Parish Centre<br>Dundrum, Dublin 14 | Thursday       | October 2012<br>to May 2013 | 10:00 to 15:30 |
| Night/Dublin | St. Andrews College,<br>Boosterstown      | Tues. & Thurs. | October 2012<br>to May 2013 | 19:00 to 21:30 |

### Cost of course

The total course fee is **€1,275.00**. The fee covers tuition, visits to the *National Botanic Gardens* and comprehensive course notes. The exam fee is not included in the cost of the course.

### Booking places on courses

**A booking deposit of €300** must be returned with the completed enrolment form below (This €300 is non-refundable if the place is accepted and cancelled at a later date). The balance of **€975** must be paid prior to starting date. Cheques, bank drafts or postal money order should be made payable to *Dublin School of Horticulture*, which will acknowledge receipt of your payments. In order to avoid disappointment, do check course availability with our Administrator prior to starting date.

## RHS LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE – AUTUMN 2012

PLEASE COMPLETE CLEARLY  
IN BLOCK CAPITALS

I hereby enclose a **booking deposit of €300** made payable to *Dublin School of Horticulture*, which will acknowledge receipt of your payment.

Please tick box as appropriate

#### Option 1

Day classes/Dublin/Taney Parish Centre/Thursday

#### Option 2

Night classes / Dublin / St. Andrews, Booterstown / Tues. & Thurs.

Where did you hear about *Dublin School of Horticulture*?

The Irish Garden Magazine  Web  Poster  Friend

Radio program  RHSI  Learning Ireland

Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

\* For exam registration purposes.

Mr. /Mrs. /Miss /Ms. /Other: .....

Forename/s:.....

Surname:.....

Address:.....

Telephone Number/s:

Home:.....Work: .....

Mobile:.....

E-mail:.....

\*Date of Birth:.....



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