



# RHS Qualifications

## RHS Level 3 Diploma in Horticultural Practice

### Qualification Specification

September 2024

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## 1. RHS Qualifications Contact Details

RHS Qualifications is the Awarding Organisation of the Royal Horticultural Society.

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## 2. Equality and Diversity Policy Statement

RHS Qualifications is committed to policies that will

### **3. RHS Level 3 Diploma in Horticultural Practice**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

The Level 3 Diploma in Horticultural Practice provides a route to employment in professional horticulture by assessing a wide range of horticultural knowledge and skills.





## **8. Appeals Procedure**

An Appeals procedure exists to conduct appeals lodged by candidates against decisions made by CRU qualifications, concerning their performance, the granting of an award and/or the closure of their entry to an award on academic grounds.

The procedure is always followed in cases where there is irregularity or malpractice in the conduct of assessment and where RH

A copy of the procedure is available on the CRU qualifications Web Portal and on the RH website.

## **9. Policy on Malpractice**

|                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>10.</b>                      | <b>Qualification Components</b> |
| <b>Horticultural Operations</b> |                                 |
| <b>Component Level: 3</b>       |                                 |









## Horticultural Taxonomy, Botany and Plantsmanship

### Component Level: 3

**Component Overview:** This component gives an introduction to the structure and classification of plants, and the tools employed in defining and ordering the plant kingdom. The component gives learners the knowledge and skills involved in successful plant identification and helps them to understand the underlying taxonomic systems.

| <b>Learning Outcomes</b><br>The learner will: |  | <b>Assessment Criteria</b><br>The learner can: |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1   | <b>Be able to interpret horticultural information and apply understanding of nomenclature and taxonomy in the naming of plants</b> | 1.1  | Develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the botanical naming system of plants, using specialist vocabulary. |
|   |  | 1.2  | Develop and apply knowledge and understanding of differences in approach for the classification of plants.           |
|   |  | 1.3  | Develop and apply knowledge and understanding of other influences in the classification of plants.                   |
| 2   | <b>Be able to understand the structure and function of plant tissues and organs in the identification of plants</b>                | 2.1  | Document, record and present information clearly and coherently using specialist vocabulary, where appropriate.      |
|   |  | 2.2  | Identify plant groups and plant families using distinguishing morphological characteristics.                         |
| 3   | <b>Be able to apply knowledge and understanding of plant taxonomy and nomenclature to identify plants</b>                          | 3.1  | Organise and communicate information clearly and coherently using specialist vocabulary.                             |
|   |  | 3.2  | Identify a range of plants and know their characteristics and decorative merits.                                     |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Plant Health</b>   |  |   |
| <b>Component Level: 3</b>   |  |   |
| <b>Component Overview:</b> This component is intended to inform learners about the current issues in plant health and to equip them with the tools needed to facilitate integrated approaches to pest management. Subjects will include pest and disease identification, pest lifecycles, monitoring, prevention, control and phytosanitary concerns. |  |   |
| <b>Learning Outcomes</b><br>The learner will:   |  | <b>Assessment Criteria</b><br>The learner can:  |
| 1   | <b>Be able to apply knowledge and understanding of plant health to horticultural operations and processes.</b> | 1.1 Identify a range of pests, diseases and disorders and know their characteristics.   |
|   |  | 1.2 Identify key points in the lifecycles of a range of pests.  |
|   |  | 1.3 Develop and apply knowledge and understanding of cultural, biological and chemical methods of control for a range of pests, diseases and disorders. |
|   |  | 1.4 Identify basic biosecurity measures implemented in a public garden context  |
|   |  | 1.5 Apply requirements of quarantine to the specified plant care and plant establishment sites.   |

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|  |                               |     |   |
|--|-------------------------------|-----|---|
|  | <b>public garden context.</b> |     |   |
|  |                               | 3.2 | Produce crop rotation and planting plans for edible crops within a public garden context. |
|  |                               | 3.3 | Interpret and apply specific care requirements of edible plant collections.               |



|                           |
|---------------------------|
| <b>Propagation</b>        |
| <b>Component Level: 3</b> |
| <b>Component Overview</b> |





## Soils and Growing Media

### Component Level: 3

**Component Overview:** This component gives in-depth look at the root zone to inform how to keep plants healthy. Learners will learn about different soil types and structures, and how to accurately analyse these for the most informative results. Soil amelioration for different purposes is covered, as well as growing media and associated environmental concerns.

#### Learning Outcomes

The learner will:

#### Assessment Criteria

The learner can:

|   |   |     |   |
|---|---|-----|---|
| 1 | <b>Be able to apply knowledge and understanding of soil and growing media operations and processes.</b> | 1.1 | Develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the formation and properties of soils and different growing media.                     |
|   |   | 1.2 | Develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the balance between plant growth, nutrients, air and water.                            |
|   |   | 1.3 | Apply the calculations and operations required to adjust and improve soils and growing media to improve plant productivity.             |
|   |   | 1.4 | Develop and apply knowledge and understanding of legislative requirements in the movement and storage of soil, growing media and waste. |
| 2 | <b>Be able to select and use a variety of</b>   |     |   |

