

Group Award Specification for:

Professional Development Award in Production Horticulture at SCQF level 6

Group Award Code: GT1W 45

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1 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to:

- assist centres to implement, deliver and manage the qualification.
- provide a guide for new staff involved in offering the gualification.
- inform course managers teaching staff, assessors, learners, employers and higher education institutes (HEIs) of the aims and purpose of the qualification.
- provide details of the range of learners the qualification is suitable for and progression opportunities.

This qualification is designed to provide learners with the knowledge and practical skills to become a technician or supervisor within the Production and Retail sector which includes garden centres, plant nurseries, soft fruit and general crop production.

Learning teaching and assessment of this group award will centre on campus with access to resources which will provide learner with relevant and realistic practical experience.

On successful completion of the course, learners may apply to progress to HNC Horticulture or other related qualifications such as HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship.

2 Qualification structure

This group award is made up of 12 SQA unit credits. It comprises 79 to 102 SCQF credit points of which 40 are at SCQF level 6 and 20 are at SCQF level 7 in the mandatory section.

To attain the qualification learners must complete 12 units in total. This comprises:

- Eight mandatory units.
- Four optional units.

There are six additional units which will enhance the full-time student experience over a year of study.

2.1 Structure

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SCQF credit points	SQA credit	SCQF level
H50X	04	Promote, Monitor and Maintain Health, Safety and Security	11	1	6
J558	04	Estimate Resource Requirements and Programme Work for Land-based Projects	5	1	6
H50A	04	Manage your own Resources	7	1	6
J557	04	Monitor and Control the Growth of Crops or Plants	8	1	7
J4NR	04	Monitor and Implement the Provision of Water to Crops or Plants	6	1	6
H51W	04	Co-ordinate the Provision of Nutrients to Crops or Plants	5	1	6
H53F	04	Identify and Name Plants Using their Botanical Names	6	1	6
J4PD	04	Co-ordinate the Control of Weeds, Pests, Diseases and Disorders	12	1	7
Optional u	ınits: Learne	ers must complete four units from this group	o:		
J4PN	04	Organise the Preparation and Establishment of Propagation Material	5	1	6
J4PC	04	Co-ordinate the Propagation of Plants from Seed	7	1	6
H0CC	04	Allocate and Check Work in Your Team	12	1	5
H507	04	Organise the Delivery of Reliable Customer Service	6	1	6
J4NX	04	Prepare and Apply Plant Protection Products to Control Weeds, Pests, Diseases or Disorders	10	1	6
J4PK	04	Maintain and Develop Established Plant Displays	5	1	6
H51D	04	Communicate Information and Knowledge	3	1	7
J4PF	04	Establish Harvesting Operations	8	1	7
H53C	04	Co-ordinate the Collection of Plants for Sale or Dispatch	10	1	7
J4N7	04	Assess and Carry Out the Maintenance or Repair of Equipment and Machinery	10	1	6

3 Aims of the qualification

3.1 General aims of the qualification

- 1. To provide the knowledge and skills required for employment at the relevant level within the production and retail horticultural industry.
- To develop an understanding of the main theoretical concepts and terminology of horticulture, required in this sector
- 3. To develop employability skills in a horticultural context
- 4. To provide knowledge and skills required to progress to an HNC/HND/Degree qualification.

3.2 Specific aims of the qualification

- 5. Develop skills necessary to effectively supervise a range of areas in the Production Horticulture sector.
- 6. Develop propagation, production and plant husbandry skills to enable learners to produce a variety of crops.
- 7. Enable learners to develop both soft and hard skills necessary for employment in the horticulture retail sector.
- 8. Develop plant identification skills.
- Develop interpersonal and retail skills such as plant display, customer service and communication.
- 10. Enable a degree of specialisation in ornamental plant production, plant retailing and food crop production.

4 Recommended entry to the qualification

Entry to this qualification is at the discretion of the centre. The following information on prior knowledge, skills, experience or qualifications that provide suitable preparation for this qualification has been provided by the Qualification Design Team (QDT) as guidance only.

Learners would benefit from having attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by one or more of the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- SVQ Horticulture or NC level 5 Horticulture.
- Relevant industry experience.
- ♦ Applicants are normally expected to have National 5 in English and Maths or relevant equivalent experience.

4.1 Core Skills entry profile

The Core Skill entry profile provides a summary of the associated assessment activities that exemplify why a particular level has been recommended for this qualification. The information would be used to identify if additional learning support needs to be put in place for learners whose Core Skills profile is below the recommended entry level or whether learners should be encouraged to do an alternative level or learning programme.

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Communication	5	Written and oral responses.
Numeracy	5	Simple calculations and cash handling.
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	5	Word processing and social networking.
Problem Solving	5	Practical assessments in varied context and conditions.
Working with Others	5	Team working and working with the public.

5 Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs

This qualification was designed to meet a specific purpose and what follows are details on how that purpose has been met through mapping of the units to the aims of the qualification. Through meeting the aims, additional value has been achieved by linking the unit standards with those defined in national occupational standards and/or trade/professional body requirements. In addition, significant opportunities exist for learners to develop the more generic skill, known as Core Skills through doing this qualification.

5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to units

Carla	Heit title					Ai	ims				
Code	Unit title	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
H50X 04	Promote, Monitor and Maintain Health, Safety and Security	Х		Х							
J558 04	Estimate Resource Requirements and Programme Work for Land-based Projects	х		Х							
H50A 04	Manage your own Resources	Х		Х							
J557 04	Monitor and Control the Growth of Crops or Plants		х	Х	Х		х				
J4NR 04	Monitor and Implement the Provision of Water to Crops or Plants		х	Х	Х		х				
H51W 04	Co-ordinate the Provision of Nutrients to Crops or Plants		Х	Х	Х		Х				
H53F 04	Identify and Name Plants Using their Botanical Names			Х	Х		х				
J4PD 04	Co-ordinate the Control of Weeds, Pests, Diseases and Disorders		х	Х	Х		х				
J4PN 04	Organise the Preparation and Establishment of Propagation Material		х	Х	Х		Х				
J4PC 04	Co-ordinate the Propagation of Plants from Seed		Х	Х	Х		Х				
H0CC 04	Allocate and Check Work in Your Team	Х		Х		Х					
H507 04	Organise the Delivery of Reliable Customer Service	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х				
J4NX 04	Prepare and Apply Plant Protection Products to Control Weeds, Pests, Diseases or Disorders		х	х			Х				

Codo	Unit title	Aims									
Code		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
J4PK 04	Maintain and Develop Established Plant Displays		Х	Х			х				
H51D 04	Communicate Information and Knowledge			х		Х	Х				
J4PF 04	Establish Harvesting Operations		х	Х	Х		Х				
H53C 04	Co-ordinate the Collection of Plants for Sale or Dispatch	х		х	х	х	х				
J4N7 04	Assess and Carry Out the Maintenance or Repair of Equipment and Machinery	Х		Х							

5.2 Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS) and/or trade body standards

Code	Unit title	National Occupational Standard	Justification
H50X 04	Promote, Monitor and Maintain Health, Safety and Security	LANCS 3	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
J558 04	Estimate Resource Requirements and Programme Work for Land-based Projects	LANH 34	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
H50A 04	Manage your own Resources	CFAMLA1	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
J557 04	Monitor and Control the Growth of Crops or Plants	LANH 12	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
J4NR 04	Monitor and Implement the Provision of Water to Crops or Plants	LANH 14	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
H51W 04	Co-ordinate the Provision of Nutrients to Crops or Plants	LANH 15	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
H53F 04	Identify and Name Plants Using their Botanical Names	LANH 58	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
J4PD 04	Co-ordinate the Control of Weeds, Pests, Diseases and Disorders	LANCS 30	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
J4PN 04	Organise the Preparation and Establishment of Propagation Material	LANH 6	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
J4PC 04	Co-ordinate the Propagation of Plants from Seed	LANH 8	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
H0CC 04	Allocate and Check Work in Your Team	MSC D5	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
H507 04	Organise the Delivery of Reliable Customer Service	CFACSB 10	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.

Code	Unit title	National Occupational Standard	Justification
J4NX 04	Prepare and Apply Plant Protection Products to Control Weeds, Pests, Diseases or Disorders	LANCS 31	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
J4PK 04	Maintain and Develop Established Plant Displays	LANH 18	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
H51D 04	Communicate Information and Knowledge	CFAMLE 11	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
J4PF 04	Establish Harvesting Operations	LANH 51	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
H53C 04	Co-ordinate the Collection of Plants for Sale or Dispatch	LANH55	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.
J4N7 04	Assess and Carry Out the Maintenance or Repair of Equipment and Machinery	LANCS 26	Provides knowledge and understanding and meets performance criteria of unit.

5.3 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualification

Unit code	Unit title	Con	nmunicat	tion	Num	eracy	IC	СТ	Prob	olem So	lving	Working with Others	
		W (R)	W (W)	0	UN	UGI	Al	PCI	СТ	РО	RE	wco	RCC
H50X 04	Promote, Monitor and Maintain Health, Safety and Security	Х	Х	Х			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
J558 04	Estimate Resource Requirements and Programme Work for Land-based Projects	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
H50A 04	Manage your own Resources	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
J557 04	Monitor and Control the Growth of Crops or Plants	Х	Х	Χ	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
J4NR 04	Monitor and Implement the Provision of Water to Crops or Plants	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	
H51W 04	Co-ordinate the Provision of Nutrients to Crops or Plants	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	
H53F 04	Identify and Name Plants Using their Botanical Names	Х	Х	Х			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
J4PD 04	Co-ordinate the Control of Weeds, Pests, Diseases and Disorders	Х	Х	Х			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
J4PN 04	Organise the Preparation and Establishment of Propagation Material	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	
J4PC 04	Co-ordinate the Propagation of Plants from Seed	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
H0CC 04	Allocate and Check Work in Your Team	Х	Х	Х			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
H507 04	Organise the Delivery of Reliable Customer Service	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х

Unit code	Unit title	Communication		Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others		
		W (R)	W (W)	0	UN	UGI	Al	PCI	СТ	РО	RE	wco	RCC
J4NX 04	Prepare and Apply Plant Protection Products to Control Weeds, Pests, Diseases or Disorders	Х	Х	Х	X		Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	
J4PK 04	Maintain and Develop Established Plant Displays	Х	Х	Х			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
H51D 04	Communicate Information and Knowledge	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
J4PF 04	Establish Harvesting Operations	Х	Х	Х			Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	
H53C 04	Co-ordinate the Collection of Plants for Sale or Dispatch	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
J4N7 04	Assess and Carry Out the Maintenance or Repair of Equipment and Machinery	Х	Х	Х			Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	

Key:

Communication:	W (R) = Written (Reading)	W (W) = Written (Writing)	O = Oral
Numeracy:	UN = Using Number	UGI = Using Graphical Information	
ICT:	AI = Accessing Information	PCI = Providing/Creating Information	
Problem Solving:	CT = Critical Thinking	PO = Planning and Organising	RE = Reviewing and Evaluating
Working with Others	WCO = Working Co-operatively with Others	RCC = Reviewing Co-operative Contribution	

5.4 Assessment strategy for the qualification

Unit	Assessment				
J.III.	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5
Promote, Monitor and Maintain Health, Safety and Security	Written/questioning.	Written/questioning.	Practical/observation .		
Estimate Resource Requirements and Programme Work for Land-based Projects	Written/questioning.	Written/questioning.	Practical/observation .		
Manage your own Resources	Written/questioning.	Written/questioning.	Practical/observation .		
Monitor and Control the Growth of Crops or Plants	Written/questioning.	Written/questioning.	Observation/product evidence.	Written	Professional discussion.
Monitor and Implement the Provision of Water to Crops or Plants	Written/questioning.	Written/questioning.	Practical/observation .		
Co-ordinate the Provision of Nutrients to Crops or Plants	Written/questioning.	Written/questioning.	Practical/observation .		
Identify and Name Plants Using their Botanical Names	Written/questioning.	Written/questioning.	Practical/observation .		

Unit	Assessment				
Offic	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5
Co-ordinate the Control of Weeds, Pests, Diseases and Disorders	Written/questioning	Written/questioning	Practical/observation .		
Organise the Preparation and Establishment of Propagation Material	Written/questioning	Written/questioning	Practical/observation /product evidence.		
Co-ordinate the Propagation of Plants from Seed	Written/questioning	Written/questioning	Practical/observation /product evidence.		
Allocate and Check Work in Your Team	Written/questioning	Written/questioning	Practical/observation .		
Organise the Delivery of Reliable Customer Service	Written/questioning	Written/questioning	Practical/observation .		
Prepare and Apply Plant Protection Products to Control Weeds, Pests, Diseases or Disorders	Written/questioning	Written/questioning	Practical/observation .		

Unit	Assessment					
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5	
Maintain and Develop Established Plant Displays	Written/questioning	Written/questioning	Practical/observation/ product evidence.			
Communicate Information and Knowledge	Written/questioning	Written/questioning	Practical/observation.			
Establish Harvesting Operations	Written/questioning	Written/questioning	Practical/observation/ product evidence.			
Co-ordinate the Collection of Plants for Sale or Dispatch	Written/questioning	Simulation	Practical/observation/ product evidence.			
Assess and Carry Out the Maintenance or Repair of Equipment and Machinery	Written/questioning	Written/questioning	Practical/observation.			

6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

6.1 Sequencing/integration of units

Module	Term of delivery	Method of delivery
Promote, Monitor and Maintain Health, Safety and Security	1	TL, SC, O, P
Estimate Resource Requirements and Programme Work for Land-based Projects	1, 2, 3	TL, SC, O, P
Manage your own Resources	1	TL, SC, O,
Monitor and Control the Growth of Crops or Plants	1, 2, 3	TL, SC, O, P
Monitor and Implement the Provision of Water to Crops or Plants	1, 2, 3	TL, SC, O, P
Co-ordinate the Provision of Nutrients to Crops or Plants	1, 2, 3	TL, SC, O, P
Identify and Name Plants Using their Botanical Names	1, 2, 3	TL, SC, O,
Co-ordinate the Control of Weeds, Pests, Diseases and Disorders	1, 3	TL, SC, O, P
Organise the Preparation and Establishment of Propagation Material	1, 3	TL, SC, O, P
Co-ordinate the Propagation of Plants from Seed	2, 3	TL, SC, O, P
Allocate and Check Work in Your Team	1	TL, SC, O, P
Organise the Delivery of Reliable Customer Service	1, 2, 3	TL, SC, O, P
Prepare and Apply Plant Protection Products to Control Weeds, Pests, Diseases or Disorders	3	TL, P
Maintain and Develop Established Plant Displays	1, 2, 3	TL, SC, O, P
Communicate Information and Knowledge	1,2	TL, SC, O, P
Establish Harvesting Operations	2, 3	TL, SC, O, P
Co-ordinate the Collection of Plants for Sale or Dispatch	1, 2, 3	TL, O, P
Assess and Carry Out the Maintenance or Repair of Equipment and Machinery	2	TL, O, P

Key	
TL	Tutor led
SC	Student centered
0	Online delivery
Р	Practical

6.2 Recognition of prior learning

SQA recognises that learners gain knowledge and skills acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts.

In some instances, a full group award may be achieved through the recognition of prior learning. However, it is unlikely that a learner would have the appropriate prior learning and experience to meet all the requirements of a full group award.

The recognition of prior learning may **not** be used as a method of assessing in the following types of units and assessments:

- HN Graded Units.
- Course and/or external assessments.
- Other integrative assessment units (which may or not be graded).
- Certain types of assessment instruments where the standard may be compromised by not using the same assessment method outlined in the unit.
- Where there is an existing requirement for a licence to practice.
- Where there are specific health and safety requirements.
- Where there are regulatory, professional or other statutory requirements.
- Where otherwise specified in an assessment strategy.

More information and guidance on the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) may be found on our website **www.sqa.org.uk**.

The following sub-sections outline how existing SQA unit(s) may contribute to this group award. Additionally, they also outline how this group award may be recognised for professional and articulation purposes.

6.2.1 Articulation and/or progression

Learners may be able to articulate on to HNC Horticulture or HNC/D Horticulture with Plantsmanship.

6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment

All theoretical knowledge and understanding can be assessed through e-assessment. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by information and communication technology.

6.4 Support materials

A list of existing Assessment Support Packs (ASPs) is available to view on SQA's website.

7 General information for centres

Equality and inclusion

The unit specifications making up this group award have been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners will be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

Internal and external verification

All assessments used within this/these qualification(s) should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in SQA's Guide to Assessment (www.sqa.org.uk/GuideToAssessment).

8 Glossary of terms

Embedded Core Skills: is where the assessment evidence for the unit also includes full evidence for complete Core Skill or Core Skill components. A learner successfully completing the unit will be automatically certificated for the Core Skill. (This depends on the unit having been successfully audited and validated for Core Skills certification.)

Finish date: The end of a group award's lapsing period is known as the finish date. After the finish date, the group award will no longer be live and the following applies:

- learners may not be entered for the group award.
- the group award will continue to exist only as an archive record on the Awards Processing System (APS).

Lapsing date: When a group award is entered into its lapsing period, the following will apply:

- the group award will be deleted from the relevant catalogue.
- the group award specification will remain until the qualification reaches its finish date at which point it will be removed from SQA's website and archived.
- no new centres may be approved to offer the group award.
- centres should only enter learners whom they expect to complete the group award during the defined lapsing period.

SQA credit value: The credit value allocated to a unit gives an indication of the contribution the unit makes to an SQA group award. An SQA credit value of 1 given to an SQA unit represents approximately 40 hours of programmed learning, teaching and assessment.

SCQF: The Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) provides the national common framework for describing all relevant programmes of learning and qualifications in Scotland. SCQF terminology is used throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at **www.scqf.org.uk**.

SCQF credit points: SCQF credit points provide a means of describing and comparing the amount of learning that is required to complete a qualification at a given level of the Framework. One National Unit credit is equivalent to 6 SCQF credit points. One National Unit credit at Advanced Higher and one Higher National Unit credit (irrespective of level) is equivalent to 8 SCQF credit points.

SCQF levels: The level a qualification is assigned within the framework is an indication of how hard it is to achieve. The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. HNCs and HNDs are available at SCQF levels 7 and 8 respectively. Higher National Units will normally be at levels 6–9 and graded units will be at level 7 and 8. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2–6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Subject unit: Subject units contain vocational/subject content and are designed to test a specific set of knowledge and skills.

Signposted Core Skills: refers to opportunities to develop Core Skills arise in learning and teaching but are not automatically certificated.

History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below. Centres are advised to check SQA's APS Navigator to confirm they are using the up to date qualification structure.

NOTE: Where a unit is revised by another unit:

- No new centres may be approved to offer the unit which has been revised.
- Centres should only enter learners for the unit which has been revised where they are expected to complete the unit before its finish date.

Version Number	Description	Date

Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of this qualification.

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9 General information for learners

This section will help you decide whether this is the qualification for you by explaining what the qualification is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the qualification and opportunities for further learning and employment.

Who is the course for?

The PDA in Production Horticulture at SCQF level 6 is designed to equip learners with the knowledge and skills necessary for a career in the Production and Retail Horticulture industry. It is suited to:

- Learners progressing from an SVQ in Horticulture or related areas.
- ♦ Learners progressing from National Certificate (NC) level provision in related areas.
- ◆ Those already in employment who wish formal recognition of their skills or to further develop their knowledge and skills.

The general aims of the PDA in Production Horticulture are:

- ♦ To provide the knowledge and skills required for employment at the relevant level within the production and retail industry.
- To develop an understanding of the main theoretical concepts and terminology of horticulture, required in this sector.
- ♦ To develop employability skills in a horticultural context.
- ♦ To provide the knowledge and skills required to progress to an HNC qualification.

Entry requirements

You would benefit from having attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by one or more of the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ♦ SVQ2 Horticulture or NC level 5 Horticulture.
- Relevant industry experience.
- Applicants are normally expected to have National 5 in English and Maths or relevant equivalent experience.

What will I be studying?

During the course, you will have the opportunity to:

- ♦ To develop an understanding of the skills required to be an effective supervisor in the production and retail horticulture sector.
- Develop practical horticultural knowledge and skills in plant propagation and plant production.
- Gain a broad grounding in plant nutrition and irrigation, plant protection and horticultural machinery.
- Develop plant identification skills.
- Develop retail skills such as plant display, customer service and communication.
- ♦ Enable some specialisation in ornamental plant production, plant retailing and food crop production.

What can I do afterwards? — further learning and employment

Learner who successfully complete the course could be expected to gain employment at technician or supervisor level in:

- ♦ Leisure and retail horticulture such as a garden centre or large home/leisure chain store.
- Nursery/grower/propagator role in the ornamental, fruit, soft fruit and vegetable or tree sectors.
- ♦ Self-employment.

Learners achieving the PDA in Production Horticulture at SCQF level 6 may be able to progress to the following courses:

- HNC Horticulture.
- HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship.