



Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QAN: 603/1215/4	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Horticulture (540 GLH)

Overview
<p>The horticulture sector</p> <p>Throughout the UK, there are currently more than 235,500 people working in the horticulture industry and it is expected that between now and 2020 the industry will need around 120,000 new entrants. Horticulture is a diverse industry offering a wide range of progression and job opportunities, including roles such as greenkeeper, gardener, landscaper, park ranger, garden centre manager, garden designer, nursery grower and sports turf manager.</p> <p>Who is this qualification for?</p> <p>The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Horticulture is intended as a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to 1.5 A Levels and, as such, is designed to meet the Tech Bacc measure, if studied alongside level 3 mathematics and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).</p> <p>It is a one-year full-time course that provides a comprehensive introduction to the sector and is primarily for those intending to gain employment directly, or to progress to an apprenticeship or a higher-level horticulture qualification.</p> <p>No prior study of the sector is needed, but you should normally have a range of achievement at level 2, in GCSEs or equivalent qualifications, including English, mathematics and science.</p> <p>What does the qualification cover?</p> <p>The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with employers and professional bodies to ensure that it is appropriate for those interested in working in the sector. In addition, higher education representatives have been involved to ensure that it fully supports entry to the relevant range of specialist degrees.</p> <p>The qualification develops the knowledge, understanding and skills that provide an excellent basis for employment or for further study.</p>

There are five mandatory units, which cover the following aspects of horticulture:

- professional working responsibilities
- plant and soil science
- work experience in the land-based sectors
- identification, planting and care of trees
- routine plant management.

You will be able to add two optional units to the mandatory content. The optional units have been designed to support progression to a range of employment opportunities in the horticulture sector and, when taken alongside other level 3 qualifications, to a range of higher education courses.

Optional units will introduce you to a sector specialist area of your choice, including working in particular environments, and link with relevant occupational areas. The optional units cover areas such as:

- plant propagation activities
- tree and shrub pruning
- land-based machinery operations
- estate skills
- nursery stock production
- sports and amenity turf areas
- plant pests and disease
- identification, planting and care of trees
- developing a land-based enterprise.

While taking this qualification, you will be required to engage with sector employers as part of your course, including 150 hours of work experience with an employer in the sector, where you will be given opportunities to develop practical skills in preparation for employment.

What could this qualification lead to?

Will the qualification lead to employment, if so, in which job role and at what level?

This qualification will prepare you for direct employment in support roles in the horticulture sector, for example:

- gardener
- sales assistant
- assistant groundskeeper
- assistant groundsperson.

If taken alongside an additional qualification such as a Pearson BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Business, it may support entry to administrative roles or assistant roles in management within the horticultural sector.

If you have taken additional level 3 qualifications, you could increase your professional industry skills and competencies, and have increased responsibilities in the above job roles. Additional qualifications include an:

- RHS Level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture
- RHS Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Plant Growth, Health and Applied Propagation
- RHS Level 3 Certificate in Principles of Garden Planning, Construction and Planting
- RHS Level 3 Diploma in Principles and Practices in Horticulture.

If you are seeking direct employment, other qualifications that complement this qualification are an:

- Advanced Certificate in Horticulture (Crops)
- Advanced Certificate in Horticulture (Grounds Maintenance)
- Advanced Certificate in Horticulture (Ornamental Horticulture).

Will the qualification lead to further learning?

When achieved alongside other level 3 qualifications as part of a two-year programme of study, you will be able to progress to a range of degree programmes in the horticulture sector.

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. For example, if taken alongside AS/A Levels in Biology and Chemistry, it could lead to a:

- BSc (Hons) in Horticulture
- BSc (Hons) in Horticulture Landscape Management
- FdSc in Garden Management.

You should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific higher education providers.

Why choose this size of qualification?

If there are larger and/or smaller versions of this qualification, or it is available at different skills levels, why should you take this particular one?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Horticulture** is equivalent in size to 1.5 A Levels. It is ideal for you if you are looking for a one-year course, perhaps after taking further level 2 qualifications, and are intending to gain employment directly, or to progress onto an apprenticeship in horticulture.

It is intended that the suite also includes the following qualifications.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Horticulture**, which is the smallest qualification in the suite and is equivalent in size to 1 A Level. It is ideal for you if you are interested in learning about the horticulture sector, with supplementing fields of study.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Horticulture**, which is equivalent in size to 2 A Levels. It is ideal for you if you want to progress directly into employment in the horticulture sector. Its size means there is time in a study programme to take an additional level 3 qualification to support progression to more specialist employment or to higher level study.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Horticulture**, which is equivalent in size to 3 A Levels. It is ideal for you if you know that you want to work in the horticulture sector, either by progressing directly to employment or following a sector-related degree.

For more detail about the other qualifications listed here, and the different progression opportunities they particularly support, please refer to their statements of purpose.

Who supports this qualification?

Professional or trade bodies

British Growers Association

The Institute of Groundsmanship