



Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QN: 603/2675/X	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Horticulture

Overview
The horticulture sector <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 that offers 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>
Who is this qualification for? <p>The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Horticulture, which is 720 GLH, is intended as a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to 2 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). As well as direct entry to employment, this qualification will prepare you for higher study of a specialist degree or BTEC Higher National Diploma. This route gives you the opportunity to enter the sector at a higher level, or in a more specialist role.</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>
What does the qualification cover? <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>

There are eight 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 plants
- routine plant management
- plant propagation activities
- estate skills
- horticultural event operations.

You will be able to add two optional units to the mandatory content. These optional units have been designed to support your progression to a range of employment opportunities in the horticulture sector. 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:

- land-based machinery operations
- nursery stock production
- pests and disease in plants
- maintenance of sports and amenity turf areas
- linear and level surveying
- landscape and garden design
- landscape and garden history
- zoological horticulture
- maintaining health and quality of turf in parks and gardens
- constructing decorative landscape features
- indoor production techniques
- outdoor horticultural crop production.

While taking this qualification, you will be required to engage with sector employers as part of your course, including 225 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. This is achieved through the provision of mandatory units that address cross-sector issues, and optional units arranged in subject groupings that enable you to meet local employment needs.

This qualification is suitable for direct employment in roles such as:

- gardener
- landscape team leader
- horticultural charge hand
- groundskeeper
- groundsperson.

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 the:

- 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 Practice of Horticulture.

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

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

Will the qualification lead to further learning?

There are many roles in this sector where recruitment is at graduate level. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. Normally you will need an additional level 3 qualification and, when taken alongside an A Level in Biology, this qualification could lead to degree courses, such as 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 Diploma in Horticulture** is equivalent in size to 2 A levels. Its size and specialist mandatory and optional units mean there is time in a study programme to take an additional level 3 qualification, such as one of those listed above, to support progression to more specialist employment or to higher level study.

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 of BTEC Nationals in Horticulture and equivalent in size to 1 A level. It is ideal for you if you are interested in working in the horticulture sector, but in roles that would be best supported by complementary fields of study.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Horticulture**, which is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels. It is ideal for you if you are looking for a one-year course

of full-time study, perhaps after taking further level 2 qualifications, and are intending to gain employment directly or to progress to an apprenticeship in horticulture. It may also be taken alongside another area of study that contrasts or complements the Foundation Diploma in Horticulture over a two-year, full-time programme of 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 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 bodies

British Growers Association

The Institute of Groundsmanship

Employers

Beckworth Emporium Ltd

Ground Control

Oak View Landscapes

Higher Education

Myerscough College

University of Central Lancashire

University of the West of England