

What is Horticulture?

Horticulture involves the growing, planting and care of plants. Most of what we eat is grown and we enjoy having our city kept tidy and decorated with plants and flowers. When you think about it there must be a large but often invisible army of horticulturalists and gardeners looking after our parks and gardens.... and many more growing our food!

What qualities will I need?

You will need patience as nothing grows when you are watching it. You will need to be fit and healthy as there is a lot of physical work involved in digging gardens and planting out. Enjoying practical activities in the open air is one of the main requirements

What will I need to wear?

Obviously your best disco outfit will not be appropriate when you may be spending your day on your hands and knees in a flowerbed. Comfortable clothes that you are not afraid to get muddy will be suitable.

What range of courses are available?

Through the TVC there is a wide range of Horticulture courses depending upon your achievements when you start the course. There are:

Entry Level courses for those with few GCSE passes and need to develop basic skills.

Level 1 courses to qualify you to do a basic job but may lead to an apprenticeship

Level 2 courses will qualify you to do a skilled job once you have had a little more experience. You will need to have completed Level 1 or impress at interview to be accepted on to this level course.

What opportunities will this course open for me?

There are many opportunities for gardeners and horticulturalists in the South West. The mild climate and the tourist industry create many opportunities for employment with further training. For those who reach Level 2 there are Level 3 courses at local colleges available.