



Horticulture or landscape apprenticeships

What does a horticulture or landscape operative do?

Horticulture or landscape construction operatives are involved in the planning and maintenance of large gardens, parks, and other green spaces, such as estates. They will be responsible for ensuring that the plants and grass are kept healthy and will usually work outside in all weathers.

Businesses will specialise within these activities, such as grounds maintenance, landscape construction or maintenance of plants and cultivated areas.



Which apprenticeships are there as a horticulture or landscape operative?

- Intermediate: Horticulture or landscape construction operative (level 2)
- Advanced: Horticulture or landscape supervisor (level 3)
- Higher: Horticulture and landscaping technical manager (level 5)

What could your typical daily tasks include?

- Sowing seeds, planting bulbs and other ornamental plants
- Watering, weeding, pruning, feeding and spraying plants
- Mowing grass, cutting dead growth and branches
- Laying paths and looking after ornamental features
- Monitoring plant health quality



How long will the apprenticeship take to complete?

A typical apprenticeship will take around 2 - 3 years to complete, depending on the level and role



How much could you earn?

As a qualified horticulture or landscape operative, you can earn on average between £16,000 - £25,000 a year depending on your experience and location



Horticulture or Landscape



Useful skills you will develop as a horticulture or landscape operative

- A broad understanding of health & safety
- Communication skills and team working
- Physical fitness and endurance
- Knowledge of plants and flowers
- Creativity and design
- Practical skills in using a variety of equipment

Qualifications you might need

- Entry requirements will be determined by individual employers. Some employers may require certain GCSEs, but the majority of employers will be looking for someone with a willingness to learn and a genuine interest in becoming a horticulture or landscape operative.

Qualifications you will gain

- The apprenticeship qualification.
- If GCSEs in maths and English have not already been achieved, then you will work towards Level 1 by the end of your apprenticeship.
- Emergency First Aid at work qualifications.

Other trades and professions that a horticulture or landscape operative might interact with:

- Project managers
- Architects
- Fencing installers
- Tree surgeons



How could you progress?

By gaining skills and experience as a horticulture or landscape operative, you could also have a successful future career as a:

- Team leader/supervisor
- Head gardener
- Horticultural technician
- Garden centre management
- Business owner – by starting your own business e.g. nursery or garden maintenance business