

## **Job Profiles**

### **Horticultural Worker/Gardener**

#### **The Work**

As a horticultural worker, you could be involved in the following:

- Production - producing and selling plants for either food or decorative purposes.
- Landscaping – designing and creating pieces of work for customers.
- Greenkeeper – maintenance of sports pitches.
- Groundsman - maintenance of parks and gardens.
- Cemeteries – you would do jobs such as a groundsman just in a cemetery.

Dependant on the areas you work in some of your daily tasks could include:

- Sowing seeds or planting bulbs/trees/shrubs
- Growing plants from cuttings and by grafting
- Taking care of plants – watering, weeding, pruning, feeding and spraying
- Mowing grass, cutting dead growth and branches and doing general tidying
- Laying paths and looking after ornamental features
- Preparing land for turf laying/planting
- Applying fertilisers and chemicals
- Mowing the turf and other maintenance
- Using Machinery such as lawn mowers, rotavators and hedge trimmers and you will need to maintain the equipment to good working order
- You may also do basic building tasks such as building walls, patios and putting up sheds
- Depending on the job, you could also pick, sort and package produce to be sent to retailers and sell plants and other products and advise customers in a garden centre.

#### **Hours and Environment**

You would usually work around 40 hours a week, although some jobs are seasonal, with longer hours during the summer and early starts. You may need to work weekends and evenings, particularly in garden centres and golf courses.

Your work would be physically demanding, involving bending, kneeling, lifting and carrying also the use of some hazardous substances could be included so attention to Health & Safety is a must.

You must also be prepared to be outside in the changeable British weather!

### **Skills and Interests**

- An interest in plants and nature
- An enjoyment of working outdoors
- Patience
- Practical skills
- The ability to understand and follow Health & Safety regulations
- The ability to work alone or in a team
- Customer service and money handling skills for garden centre work
- Strength and fitness to use heavy equipment
- Willingness to work outside in all weather conditions
- Dependant on job role an ability to interpret plans and drawings

### **Getting into the Industry**

You do not need any particular qualifications to become a horticultural worker – you may be able to find work if you have experience in a similar sector such as forestry, floristry, or farming or you have gained skills from gardening or as a hobby. If you are to work in a garden centre some customer service experience could be beneficial.

In this sector you can also do Customer Service, Business Administration and Management.

### **Horticultural qualifications, further information & useful contacts**

***Please note KEITS does not take responsibility for the content of external sites.***

- 1) B-Tec First Diploma and National Certificate/Diploma in Horticulture – contact Lantra for more details [www.lantra.co.uk](http://www.lantra.co.uk)
- 2) Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture & Apprenticeship in Production Horticulture– KEITS [www.keits.co.uk](http://www.keits.co.uk)  
Horticulture Work Based Diploma Level 1  
Horticulture Work Based Diploma Level 2 & 3 [www.keits.co.uk](http://www.keits.co.uk)
- 3) Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Level 2 & 3 Certificate in Horticulture – [www.mysercough.ac.uk](http://www.mysercough.ac.uk)
- 4) The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) four tier programme of short courses – Foundation, Intermediate, Advanced and Management



### Further information and contact details

- 1) Lantra, Lantra House, Stoneleigh Park, Nr Coventry, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG  
[Tel:0845 707 8007](tel:08457078007), [www.lantra.co.uk](http://www.lantra.co.uk)
- 2) KEITS, Unit C, Houndswood Gate, Harper Lane, Radlett, Herts, WD7 7HU,  
[Tel:01923 854586](tel:01923854586) [www.keits.co.uk](http://www.keits.co.uk)
- 3) Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)
- 4) National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC), Stoneleigh Park, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG, [Tel:0247 685 7300](tel:02476857300), [www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk)
- 5) [www.ajobin.com](http://www.ajobin.com)
- 6) [www.afuturein.com](http://www.afuturein.com)
- 7) [www.LGjobs.com](http://www.LGjobs.com)
- 8) [www.bloominggoodjobs.com](http://www.bloominggoodjobs.com)
- 9) Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) 28 Stratford Office Village, Wolverton Mill East, Milton Keynes, MK12 5TW [www.iog.org](http://www.iog.org)
- 10) National Apprenticeship Service – [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)