



# Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture National Botanic Gardens



Full-Time  
Course Guide

2021/2022



A warm welcome to Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture. We hope that you find this prospectus both insightful and informative.

We are continuing a strong and proud tradition of training horticulturists, a practise that has gone on for over 200 years at the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin. The College is privileged to partner with the OPW who run the gardens in the training of students in Horticulture. Our graduates are found in every corner of the world practising their trade and continually learning. The science of horticulture is ever changing and in the Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture we can provide the building blocks that will open new horizons.

All of our courses are run in the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin and in our new campus in the grounds at Teagasc Ashtown. We have access to the National Botanic Gardens each day and we also have state of the art lecture theatres that were opened in 2014. It's a great time to be involved in the industry as more and more horticultural companies are looking to expand and take on well-trained, highly qualified employees.

The essence of what we do centres around plant knowledge and the Botanic Gardens holds the premier living plant collection in Ireland. Across every course, students spend a considerable period of time in the gardens viewing plants and being tutored on the plant collections and uses.

In this booklet you will find a wealth of information dealing with specific courses from Certificate level 5 through to Degree level 7. All of our major and minor awards programmes are validated under QQI (Quality Qualifications Ireland).

If all you want to do is learn plant names then we have the course for you but if you want to develop a full career qualification then this is the place for you also. In short, we have the course to fulfil all horticulture training requirements. Over the years we have developed strong industry links and we are also involved in providing specific tailored training and Continuous Professional Development to the Horticulture sector.

We are dedicated to promote the business of learning in horticulture across all levels and with all interested individuals.

If you have any specific queries on any information contained herein please don't hesitate to contact us. Why not visit us at the National Botanic Gardens. You are guaranteed a wonderful experience, one that could change your life.

John Mulhern  
Principal, Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture  
National Botanic Gardens





"The science of horticulture is ever changing and in the College of Horticulture we provide the building blocks that will open new horizons"

John Mulhern, College Principal

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## Overview of the Botanic Gardens and College

Our College provides full time courses at QQI Level 5 and QQI Advanced Certificate Level 6. These courses are awarded by QQI (Quality and Qualifications Ireland). This ensures that all our students are provided with training that is at the highest quality in educational standards. Our courses run from both The National Botanic Gardens and also at our new campus in the grounds at Teagasc Ashtown.

### National Botanic Gardens

The College of Amenity Horticulture is located at The National Botanic Gardens. It is Ireland's premier botanical and horticultural establishment. It occupies a beautiful 19 hectares site with the Tolka River forming the northern boundary. It contains over 20,000 plant species and cultivars including many exceptional specimens.

There is a long tradition of horticulture training at the National Botanic Gardens since 1812. Over the last 200 years the training courses at the Botanic Gardens have evolved to meet the needs of the day.

The college works closely with the OPW staff of the gardens to ensure that students receive a comprehensive training in all aspects of horticulture.

Our courses involve both class work, skills training and practical learning which give our students a broader understanding of horticulture.

### Teagasc College Campus, Ashtown

The college campus was opened in 2016 and provides facilities for students to undertake practical training in Horticulture in the following areas:

- Landscaping
- Nursery
- Fruit & Vegetable Production
- Mechanisation
- Sportsturf



## QQI Level 5 – Certificate in Horticulture

### General Information & Course Schedule

This course involves 28 week of college work and skills training and a four week practical learning period (PLP) in a Teagasc approved horticultural unit. In an average week, students will spend three days at the college and two days skills training in Botanic Gardens or Dublin Local Authority Park.

### Blended Learning Options

Options will be available for virtual engagement of classroom teaching sessions. Practicals in all sessions must be attended for training and assessment.

### Course Content

Topics included in the QQI Level 5 course include:

Horticultural Mechanisation	Plant Protection
Plant Propagation	Plant Science
Plant ID and Use	Soil Science & Growing Media
Landscape Construction and Maintenance	Leadership
Fruit and Vegetable Production	Garden Design
Biodiversity & the Natural Environment	Horticultural Mechanisation

### Course Aims

By combining class work at the National Botanic Gardens with horticultural work and skills training at the Dublin Local Authority Parks, students receive a balanced approach to the skills and knowledge required to start a career in horticulture or to progress on to a higher level horticulture course.

### Application Procedures and Entry Requirements

- Online application at [www.teagasc.ie/education/going-to-college/apply-online/horticulture-courses/](http://www.teagasc.ie/education/going-to-college/apply-online/horticulture-courses/)
- Student must be aged over 17 or over on January 1st following entry to the course
- Horticulture can be a physically demanding career path
- Applicants should have a keen interest in learning and working in horticulture
- Teagasc supports access for students with disabilities

### Progression

Progression opportunities from the Level 5 Certificate in Horticulture include; the Advanced Certificate in Horticulture (Level 6) and the Bachelor of Science in Horticulture degree (Level 7).

## QQI Level 6 – Advanced Certificate in Horticulture

### General Information & Course Schedule

This course is offered over a 32 week period and will consist of either 24 or 16 weeks of College based course work and 8 or 16 weeks of a practical learning period (PLP) depending on the chosen stream.

### Blended Learning Options

Options will be available for virtual engagement of classroom teaching sessions. Practicals in all sessions must be attended for training and assessment.

### Course Content

Subjects included in the QQI Level 6 course will vary with the stream chosen. Students select one stream and take appropriate modules. The four streams offered in the Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Horticulture include:

QQI Level 6 Streams – Students select one stream and take appropriate modules			
Landscaping	Nursery Stock	Sports Turf	Food Production
Landscape Design & Construction	Nursery Stock Production	Sports Turf Science and Maintenance	Market Gardening
Garden and Parks Supervision	Garden Centre Operations	Garden and Parks Supervision	Horticulture Production Mechanisation
Leadership or Customer Service	Leadership or Customer Service	Leadership or Customer Service	Leadership or Customer Service
Supervisory Skills	Supervisory Skills	Supervisory Skills	Supervisory Skills
Ecology and the Environment	Ecology and the Environment	Ecology and the Environment	Ecology and the Environment
Tree & Shrub Management	Tree & Shrub Management	Tree & Shrub Management	Sustainable Horticulture
Course Work			
24 weeks	16 weeks	16 weeks	16 weeks
Practical Learning Period (PLP)			
8 weeks	16 weeks	16 weeks	16 weeks

\* QQI Level 6 Streams are offered subject to numbers



## Course Aims

The Advanced Certificate in Horticulture provides students with the opportunity to acquire management knowledge and skills to effectively manage and carry out day to day tasks and long term management of parks and gardens, sportsturf and commercial horticultural enterprises. The course is suitable for those who are;

- Seeking employment as supervisors, technicians or unit managers
- Seeking employment in the horticultural business service sector
- Transferring to the BSc in Horticulture (Level 7)

## Admission, Entry Requirements and Application Procedures

- Students who have successfully achieved a Certificate in Horticulture QQI Level 5 may progress to the Advanced Certificate in Horticulture QQI level 6
- Students should apply directly to the College
- Application forms are available from the College and from the College website
- Teagasc supports access for students with disabilities

## Progression

Students who successfully complete the Advanced Certificate in Horticulture Level 6 with a merit or distinction are eligible to apply for advanced entry to year 2 of the BSc in Horticulture Level 7 (WIT) which is conducted at the College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens.

## Further Information

Please see Page 12 for full contact and admission details



## Level 7 – Bachelor of Science in Horticulture (WIT)

### Overview

This is a three-year, full-time BSc in horticulture which consists of lectures, integrated practicals, projects and a practical learning period. The course is run in partnership with the Waterford Institute of Technology. All components of the course are delivered and examined in the Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens and Teagasc Ashtown.

### YEAR 1

Focuses on the core of horticultural science and provides students with a sound knowledge of all the sciences underpinning plant cultivation.

#### Semester 1

Communication Skills & Computer Applications  
Plant Biology  
Plant Protection

Horticulture Skills 1  
Plant Knowledge 1  
Soil & Growing Media

#### Semester 2

Chemistry for Land Scientists  
Horticulture Mechanisation and Safety  
Horticulture Building Construction

Plant Knowledge 2  
Horticulture Skills 2  
Plant Propagation

### YEAR 2

Students will have an opportunity to specialise in a particular area and perfect new skills with a practical learning period either in Ireland or abroad. Major elective subjects in year 2 include:

#### Semester 3

Biodiversity and Horticulture (M)  
Garden Management and Plant Selection (M)  
Financial Analysis for your Business (M)

Landscape Design (E)  
Sportsurf Science (E)  
Lab Skills for Plant Micro-propagation (E)  
Nursery Stock Production (E)  
Sustainable Food Production (E)

#### Semester 4

Placement (Horticulture) (M)

### YEAR 3

Provides a range of business subjects prepares graduates to become self-employed and develop management skills. Students in year 3 can also choose from a wide range of minor elective subjects across all horticulture sectors.

#### Semester 5

Horticulture Sales & Marketing (M)  
Intro to Scientific Writing & Data Analysis (M)

Managing your Business (M)  
People Management (M)

#### Semester 6

Arboriculture (M)  
Law for Horticulturists (M)  
Horticulture Project & Seminar (M)  
Tax for Horticulture (M)

Beekeeping & Pollination Studies (E)  
Field Crop Production (E)  
Greenkeeping (E)  
Landscape Design & Floristry (E)  
Plants & Society (E)  
Social & Therapeutic Horticulture (E)  
Garden Centre Operations (E)  
Interior Landscaping & Floristry (E)  
Landscape Design Advanced (E)  
Protected Crop Production (E)  
Computer Aided Design (E)

\*(M) = Mandatory    \*(E) = Elective

## What are my Career Opportunities?

Horticulture is a diverse industry and there has always been a demand for highly trained horticulturists. Career opportunities exist in a wide variety of areas including:

Greenkeeping & Sportsturf Management	Private & Heritage Gardens
Nursery Stock Production	Landscape Construction
Landscape Design	Garden Maintenance
Food Production	Garden Centres
Horticulture Service Sector	

## How do I apply for the Level 7 Bachelor of Science in Horticulture?

- Apply through the CAO – Course Code: WD097 ([www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie))
- Apply for advanced entry on the WIT website ([www.wit.ie](http://www.wit.ie)). Details available from the College of Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens.
- Third level grants available ([www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie))
- Points vary from year to year but are usually in the range 210 – 250

## Minimum Entry Requirements for BSc in Horticulture:

5 subjects:	O6/H7
English or Irish:	O6/H7
Mathematics:	O6/H7

Students with a Level 5 and Level 6 in Horticulture with merit of distinction in the new Common award in Horticulture and who successfully complete bridging studies, can apply to transfer into Year 2 of the BSc. in Horticulture

## Information for Mature Students

If a student is aged over 23 by January 1st in the year in which they intend starting the course, they do not need the normal entry requirements. But they still have to apply through the CAO before February 1st.

## Further information on the Level 7 BSc in Horticulture

Contact the course leader at WIT on Tel: 051 302185 (email [ygrace@wit.ie](mailto:ygrace@wit.ie))

Visit the WIT website [www.wit.ie/wd097](http://www.wit.ie/wd097)

# General Information & Contact Details

## How to Apply for our Courses

Please note that it is recommended that students should possess a full, up to date, Safe Pass. A full Drivers License is also recommended

Application for our courses is online at our website at: <https://www.teagasc.ie/education/going-to-college/apply-online/horticulture-courses/>

Please follow the steps and complete all sections.

To apply a candidate will need to upload three forms of identification

1. PPS number
2. Birth Certificate (EU Resident), Non-EU Passport & Birth Certificate
3. ID Photo (this should be a clear image and show head and shoulders of the candidate)

We cannot process your application unless all relevant documentation and information is provided.

To undertake a full time level 6 course in Horticulture a student has to hold a full level 5 qualification in Horticulture. Along with the application a student should upload a copy of their level 5 results.

Information on all our courses is online <https://www.teagasc.ie/education/teagasc-colleges/botanic-gardens/> or alternatively you can contact our office at:

Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture  
The National Botanic Gardens,  
Botanic Avenue,  
Dublin 9.

Telephone: 01 804 0201  
Email: [botanic.college@teagasc.ie](mailto:botanic.college@teagasc.ie)



### Why us?

Our students come from a wide variety of backgrounds including both school leavers and adults who are looking to change career. We welcome all students from all backgrounds who have a passion for horticulture and wish to engage in seeking employment in the field of horticulture. All students of Glasnevin become part of a large community of learners that have trained in the National Botanic Gardens and develop lifelong friends and colleagues as a result of their time spent there.

### Opportunities

Work opportunities in the Hort sector are very strong currently. Jobs in Landscaping, nurseries, garden centres, golf courses and in the commercial food sector are available to students. We have found through student surveys that up to 88% of students got employment within three months after graduating from the college in the Hort sector. This is a very positive indicator of what employment opportunities are available in Horticulture currently.

### Work Experience

As horticulture is a very practical discipline we have a period of work placement built in to the delivery on each of our full time programs. We are fortunate that the National Botanic Gardens is a close partner that facilitates our students on their work experience. The students work side by side with the gardening staff on the grounds in first year of their program. We also have a large number of host companies that take students as part of their work experience in the degree program in year two. These companies are spread across the Hort sectors in landscape, nursery, amenity and commercial areas.

### Industry Links

Each year we hold a career's fair in the college in March which allows students to connect with industry and network about possible employment opportunities when they graduate. Companies from each of the major disciplines are represented and talk to students about prospective employment in their respective areas. The college through its placement links would have a large network of industry links which serves as a very strong resource when promoting employment opportunities with students.

### Building/Location

Our college is located on the grounds of the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin and Ashtown. We have new classrooms, science laboratory, drawing studio and computer suite. Students have access to the botanic library and a designated study area.

### Facilities

The facilities at the college include student and staff canteen, library, computer room, laboratory, study facilities, fully equipped lecture rooms and drawing studio. Wi-Fi is available in the main college buildings.

In addition to the full facility of the Botanic gardens itself the college has particular facilities for training in horticultural practice and skills.

## Clubs & Societies

When students attend courses at the Gardens they become part of all the activities of the National Botanic Gardens. The Botanic Gardens visitor centre has an all year round program of horticultural lectures and exhibitions at which all students are welcome. Various botanical and horticultural societies hold events in the National Botanic Gardens.

## Accommodation

The College of Amenity horticulture is a non-residential college. Students acquire accommodation in the vicinity of the Botanic Gardens. An accommodation list is available from the college. Good opportunities for accommodation are available on many web sites and in the daily newspapers. It is best to seek such accommodation well in advance of the start of the college year.

## Fees and Grants

All current fees are available directly from College.

### Teagasc Student Maintenance Grant Scheme (TSMGS)

The grant is a means tested grant for students attending level 5 and level 6 courses at Teagasc.

### Students Universal Support Ireland (SUSI)

The Level 7 Bsc in Horticulture is eligible for Third Level Training grants. The grant application form is at [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie)

## Student Supports

Teagasc is an equal opportunities organisation and welcomes applications from students which may have a disability or specific learning difficulties. Teagasc is committed to supporting all students, including those with disabilities or specific learning difficulties within their learning environment.

## Transport Links

TEAGASC – BOTANIC GARDENS

By Bus: Route 4, 9, 83

For any other starting points in Dublin, use [www.hittheroad.ie](http://www.hittheroad.ie) where you can find links for Dublin Bus, Luas and DART routes.

Accessible by car – ample free parking available on site

TEAGASC – ASHTOWN, DUBLIN 15

Accessible by car – ample free parking available on site

Dublin Bus 120, 37, 39, 38, 39A and 70

Train – Longford, Maynooth, Castleknock, Ashtown and finish at Connolly





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Web: [www.teagasc.ie/botanicgardens](http://www.teagasc.ie/botanicgardens)



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