



Horticultural Education

*Training in Teagasc
Botanic Gardens & Ashtown*

Effective from January 2022



All the careers in Horticulture are tied together with a passion and love of working in the outdoor space with plants. John Mulhern, College Principal, Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, outlines the many and varied careers available in Horticulture.



The word 'varied' comes to mind when you think about careers in Horticulture; but, one thing that ties all the careers in Horticulture together, is a passion and love of working in the outdoor space with plants. These may form part of beautiful and creative outdoor spaces, or indeed the very vital area that is food production. Graduates of the Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture are to be found in both these areas and, more specifically, in the landscaping, nursery stock, turf care and food production areas.

Garden design and construction would be a major avenue for graduates to find employment and there are plenty of employers in this space who do once off design and construction work or corporate work with large companies who need contractors to manage outdoor campus spaces.

The supply of plants to the sector is through the nursery stock industry where employers would have large scale nurseries dedicated to specific plant production for retail sale including trees and shrubs.

The sports turf sector alone employs about 3,500 individuals and people would be most familiar with their local golf course as being part of this sector. This industry also extends to all major field sports so GAA, soccer and rugby pitches are all covered under this sector.

The food sector, through fruit and vegetable production is a very important area for horticulturalists to be employed. Mushroom is the most important horticultural food crop in Ireland. Nowadays more than ever, there is a high demand for locally-grown produce that does not attract air miles or have heavy carbon footprints.



The Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, Glasnevin

COURSE DELIVERY (subject to COVID changes)

Here we have over 200 students following courses in horticulture from Certificate level 5 up to Degree level 7. In all of our programmes there is a blend of theory and practical work.

Course material will be delivered face to face through a combination of practical instruction and assessment and class based teaching. All practicals will be delivered face to face for instruction and assessment in the National Botanic Gardens and Teagasc Ashtown.

Moodle is the online learning platform that will be used as the resource for supplementary learning content for students. Moodle will also be used for hosting recorded class content for some but not all modules.

Class timetables outlining the structure of the different modules will be made available at induction which will occur at the start of each programme for fully registered students.



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.

Full Time Courses

National Botanic Gardens - 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 25 weeks of college work and skills training and an eight week practical learning period (PLP) in a Teagasc approved horticultural unit.

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
- Fruit and Vegetable Production
- Garden Design
- Biodiversity & the Natural Environment
- Leadership



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 <https://www.teagasc.ie/education/going-to-college/apply-online/>
- 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.

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 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
- Teagasc supports access for students with disabilities

WIT Level 7 Degree 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 TeagascAshtown.

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



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.

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

- Apply through the CAO – Course Code: WD097 (<https://www.cao.ie/>)
- Apply for advanced entry on the WIT website (www.wit.ie). Details available from the College of Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens.
- Third level grants available (<https://susie.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)
Visit the WIT website www.wit.ie/wd097

Courses Overview

Part time courses or component awards allow learners to select individual subjects in Horticulture from any of our major awards at Level 5, 6, 7. These courses are intended for prospective students who are currently employed in the horticulture industry and who wish to further their career development in their chosen sector.

At level 5 they can be pursued by individuals as taster modules to identify if further engagement in Horticulture is warranted or desired. These courses will enable the student to develop a greater understanding of the sciences underpinning their chosen sector, and will also help them improve their skills and competence at a practical level.

These courses are offered at a time and in a manner to best meet the demands of the horticulture industry. They are offered over the academic year during which time students will undertake a full programme of both academic and practical training. As well as providing the learner with a taste of 3rd level training in their chosen sector, these courses will equip the learner with the knowledge skill and competence relevant to the sector in which they are employed.

Level 5 Courses

1. Biodiversity & the Natural Environment
2. Fruit & Vegetable Production
3. Horticulture Mechanisation
4. Garden Design
5. Plant Science
6. Soil Science & Growing Media
7. Leadership
8. Landscape Construction & Maintenance
9. Plant Identification & Use
10. Plant Propagation
11. Plant Protection

Level 6 Courses

12. Turfgrass Establishment & Maintenance
13. Ecology & the Environment
14. Garden Centre Operations
15. Landscape Design & Construction
16. Market Gardening
17. Nursery Stock Production
18. Sportsturf Science & Maintenance
19. Tree & Shrub Management

How to Apply for our Courses

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

Please follow the steps and complete all sections.

Level 7 Courses

The following WIT part-time courses/modules run in Teagasc's College of Amenity Horticulture in the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin Dublin.

They start in September each year and run for 8 hours per week, for 12 weeks. Email: ygrace@wit.ie to express your interest.

1. Certificate in Nursery Stock Production (10 credits)
2. Certificate in Garden Maintenance and Plant Selection (10 credits)
3. Plant Protection Module [for registration with DAFM as professional user of pesticides status] (5 credits)
4. Certificate in Sportsturf Science (10 credits)



Further information can be obtained directly from the college.

Tel: +353 1 8040201

Email: botanic.college@teagasc.ie