

Job Profiles

Horticultural Worker

The Work

As an horticultural worker, you would be involved in the large scale growing of plants

You could work in one of the following areas:

- Production horticulture – producing and selling plants for either food or decorative purposes
- Garden centres-producing plants for sale to the public
- Amenity horticulture – looking after areas such as parks, public and botanic gardens

Your day to day tasks would typically include:

- Sowing seeds or planting bulbs
- 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

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. You may need to work weekends and evenings, particularly in garden centres.

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 their care
- 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

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.

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
- 2) Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture & Apprenticeship in Production Horticulture– KEITS www.keits.co.uk
- 3) Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Level 2 & 3 Certificate in Horticulture – www.mysercough.ac.uk

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
- 2) KEITS, Unit C, Houndswood Gate, Harper Lane, Radlett, Herts, WD7 7HU,
[Tel:01923 854586](tel:01923854586) www.keits.co.uk
- 3) Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), 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
- 5) www.ajobin.com
- 6) www.afuturein.com
- 7) www.LGjobs.com
- 8) www.bloominggoodjobs.com