



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: General Plantings

Unit code: H1K5 11

Superclass: SE

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Version: 01

Summary

This Unit will enable candidates to select, use, establish and maintain ground cover plants, bulbs, annuals, seasonal bedding, wall shrubs and climbers and mixed border plantings in landscape features. They will also develop the ability to produce a planting plan for a plant group.

Outcomes

- 1 Identify plants relevant to general plantings.
- 2 Describe the conditions required by each of the plant groups.
- 3 Prepare a planting plan for a plant group.
- 4 Plant representative samples from more than one group of plants.
- 5 Maintain plants from more than one group in appropriate landscape features.

Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

General information (cont)

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: General Plantings

Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

Complete Core Skill None

Core Skill component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: General Plantings

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

Outcome 1

Identify plants relevant to general plantings.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Plants, relevant to general plantings, are correctly identified.
- (b) A suitable situation for the use of each plant is correctly identified.

Outcome 2

Describe the conditions required by each of the plant groups.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The conditions required by a range of amenity plants used in soft landscaping are correctly described.

Outcome 3

Prepare a planting plan for a plant group.

Performance Criteria

- (a) An appropriate scale is selected.
- (b) Plants are correctly spaced.
- (c) Plants are appropriately grouped.

Outcome 4

Plant representative samples from more than one group of plants.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The ground is prepared correctly.
- (b) Planting materials are correctly positioned.
- (c) Plants are accurately positioned.
- (d) Appropriate planting techniques are applied.
- (e) The work methods and practices demonstrated by the candidate are safe and in accordance with the requirements of all relevant Health and Safety requirements.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: General Plantings

Outcome 5

Maintain plants from more than one group in appropriate landscape features.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Plants are correctly weeded, pruned and fed.
- (b) Plant material is replaced when required.
- (c) Mulch is appropriately applied.
- (d) Dead heading is carried out appropriately.
- (e) An adequate supply of water is provided.
- (f) The work methods and practices demonstrated by the candidate are safe and in accordance with the requirements of all relevant Health and Safety requirements.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

For Outcome 1 candidates will be required to identify 20 plants (by botanical name) and identify a suitable situation for each plant.

For Outcome 2 candidates will be required to identify the conditions required by the following plants groups: ground cover plants, bulbs, hardy annuals, seasonal bedding, wall shrubs and climbers and mixed border plantings. The conditions required should include soil type, acidity/alkalinity, free or impeded drainage, aspect, topography and exposure.

For Outcome 3 candidates will be required to prepare a planting plan for a plant group.

Outcomes 4 and 5 require the candidate to undertake a practical exercise, to prepare a site and plant representative samples from 2 groups for Outcome 4 and to maintain two groups of amenity plants used in soft landscaping for Outcome 5.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: General Plantings

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The context of the Unit is the following five groups:

- ◆ ground cover plants
- ◆ bulbs
- ◆ hardy annuals
- ◆ seasonal bedding
- ◆ wall shrubs and climbers
- ◆ mixed border plantings

Corresponding to the Outcomes:

- 1 Three examples from each group and any other 2 plants to be covered and recognition of any important growth characteristics and uses associated with the plant selected.
- 2 Soil type; acidity/alkalinity; free or impeded drainage; aspect; topography; exposure.
- 3 Plantings plan showing distribution, spacing and groupings.
- 4 Preparation of ground; preparation of planting material; planting.
- 5 Weeding; pruning; feeding; replacement of plant material; mulching; dead heading; irrigation; thinning.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

As much of the material as possible should be covered in the practical situation. Plant identification and site specification could in part be covered in visits to areas providing examples of the material in this Unit. Experience should be provided of grouping plants in different ways. Pictures, slides and possibly videotaped material of gardens outwith the general college area should be used to provide wider experience and examples.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

The candidate must be informed of the tasks which contribute to summative assessment. Any unsatisfactory aspects of performance should, if possible, be discussed with the candidate as and when they arise.

Acceptable performance in the Unit will be satisfactory achievement of the Performance Criteria specified for each Outcome.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: General Plantings

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

Given the practical nature of much of this Unit it is not well suited to e-assessment, however it may be possible to use e-assessment for Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components in this Unit, however there may be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Problem Solving* and *Working with Others* at SCQF Level 4.

This Unit has the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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