



## National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Horticulture: Landscape Aftercare (SCQF level 4)

**Unit code:** H1YM 10

**Superclass:** SE

**Publication date:** August 2012

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

## Summary

This Unit is designed to enable candidates to assist in caring for a landscape. Candidates will learn about and undertake basic maintenance and aftercare tasks in relation to soft and or hard landscape gardening. This is an introductory Unit aimed at individuals seeking to start careers within horticulture and the landscape industry.

This is a mandatory Unit in the National Certificate in Horticulture at SCQF Level 4 and may be integrated with the following mandatory Units in the Group Award:

- ◆ Practical Horticulture: Prepare an Area for Landscaping
- ◆ Practical Horticulture: Create and Area for landscaping

The Unit may also be undertaken as a free standing Unit.

Successful completion of this Unit would enable candidates to progress to the following SCQF Level 5 Units:

- ◆ D894 11 — Soft Landscaping: General Planting
- ◆ D895 11 — Soft Landscaping: Specialist Planting

## Outcomes

- 1 Describe key landscape aftercare tasks and the resources required to perform them.
- 2 Assist in producing a basic maintenance programme for a landscape development.
- 3 Carry out basic landscape aftercare tasks.

## **General information (cont)**

**Unit title:** Horticulture: Landscape Aftercare (SCQF level 4)

### **Recommended entry**

Entry is at the discretion of the centre. Learners doing this Unit do not need prior knowledge or experience of horticulture however enthusiasm for working outdoors and using practical horticultural skills would be an advantage.

### **Credit points and level**

1 National Unit credit(s) at SCQF level 4: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4\*).

*\*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.*

### **Core Skills**

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the support notes of this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

## **National Unit specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Horticulture: Landscape Aftercare (SCQF level 4)

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. All practical activities must be carried out in accordance with current Health and Safety legislation.

### **Outcome 1**

Describe key landscape aftercare tasks and the resources required to perform them.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Describe key soft and hard landscape aftercare tasks and their sequencing.
- (b) Identify the maintenance resources required for landscape aftercare treatments.
- (c) Describe safe working practices for hard and soft landscaping activities.

### **Outcome 2**

Assist in producing a basic maintenance programme for a landscape development.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Assist in assessing the soft and hard landscape aftercare needs for a specific area.
- (b) Assist in devising an aftercare programme and sequence, according to needs of the soft or hard landscape area.

### **Outcome 3**

Carry out basic landscape aftercare tasks.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Assist in the implementation of the soft or hard landscape aftercare treatment programme.
- (b) Recommend future aftercare.
- (c) Record all landscape aftercare tasks undertaken.

## National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Horticulture: Landscape Aftercare (SCQF level 4)

### Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

#### Outcome 1

Closed-book supervised written and/or oral evidence is required which includes:

- ◆ a description of key landscape aftercare tasks associated with soft and hard landscape gardening. The description will cover:
  - pruning, re-planting, weeding, pest and disease control, irrigation and a suitable schedule for treatment according to the season
- ◆ the identification of key maintenance resources used in the aftercare of soft and hard landscape activities and will include as a minimum:
  - spade, fork, secateurs, hoe, PPE, plants, fertilisers, pesticides
- ◆ a description of safe working practices in the context of hard and soft landscape gardening, which includes:
  - the safe use of tools and other materials and equipment, behaving in a way that will not endanger self or others and following instructions given by supervisor and any manufacturer's recommendations. The description will also include safe and correct lifting and handling of heavy objects, in the case of hard landscaping.

#### Outcome 2

Performance and open-book supervised written and/or oral evidence is required which includes:

- ◆ assistance in assessing the aftercare needs of a particular landscape area, which includes candidates recording the health and condition of plants and identifying any damaged materials
- ◆ assistance in devising an aftercare plan for the selected area which includes candidates suggesting a suitable schedule and timing of the tasks to be carried out. Tasks which must be identified in the planned maintenance programme are: replacement of plants and materials, feeding, irrigation, plant protection, weed control, pruning and the plan must take into account seasonal factors. As part of the plan, candidates must also note the cost of materials, health and safety precautions to be taken and how to dispose of waste sustainably.

## **National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Horticulture: Landscape Aftercare (SCQF level 4)

### **Outcome 3**

Performance evidence supported by an observation checklist which includes:

- ◆ carrying out the tasks safely and in accordance with instructions from tutor and manufacturers' recommendations.  
Tasks will include weeding, pest and disease control, re-planting, irrigation, feeding, mulching, plant support, labelling.
- ◆ product, written and/or oral evidence is required which includes recommendations for further future suitable aftercare treatment which identifies as a minimum: weeding, pest and disease control, feeding and irrigation
- ◆ a candidate log/folio of all activities undertaken, in relation to his/her assistance and participation in the aftercare tasks for a soft or hard landscape area. This must include the seven tasks identified in PC (a).

## National Unit specification: support notes

### Unit title: Horticulture: Landscape Aftercare (SCQF level 4)

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

This Unit is aligned to the following LANTRA National Occupational Standards (NOS)

- CS1 Maintain the safety of self and others in the workplace
- CS6 Transport physical resources within the work area
- CS53 Assist with the preparation of the growing media
- CS12 Assist with constructing structures and surfaces
- CS48 Assist with planting and establishing crops or plants

#### Outcome 1

This Unit may be undertaken as a free standing Unit; however it can also be undertaken with Units *Horticulture: Prepare an area for Landscaping* and *Horticulture: Create a Landscaped Site*. Candidates will be made aware of the basics of soft and or hard landscape aftercare treatments; as well as the key maintenance tools; equipment and resources for the aftercare. Suggested aftercare treatments may be vegetation control (weed control and pruning); feeding; watering; provision of shelter; netting; staking; fitment of tree guards; mulching; basic plant protection; replacement planting; labelling; timber treatments; staining; cleaning of paving and fencing; re/pointing; replacement of broken paving; walling; fencing. There may be many more aftercare treatments. Many of the tasks will occur naturally throughout the selected project activity; while landscape site visits and on site discussions will enable tutors to ensure that candidates have a realistic understanding of soft and or hard landscape aftercare treatments; as well as the key maintenance tools; equipment and resources for the aftercare of landscape projects.

#### Outcome 2

Candidates will be directly involved in suggesting specific aftercare for a particular landscape project. Candidates will undertake the various maintenance tasks towards the end of the academic session; which will be block three, or the final semester.

Having learned about the essential soft and hard landscape aftercare treatments and the key maintenance tools; equipment and resources for the aftercare of landscape projects; candidates could be given a range of landscape developments and asked to suggest suitable key aftercare for each one. The candidate will be well positioned to specify; programme and sequence the logical order of the aftercare treatments for the selected landscape project.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Horticulture: Landscape Aftercare (SCQF level 4)

### Outcome 3

Candidates will be given or may select an area suitable for aftercare treatment and will be actively involved in whatever aftercare treatments are required. They may be involved in aspects of soft or hard landscape gardening, or both. Aftercare treatments for the selected site may include: vegetation control (weed control and pruning); feeding; watering; provision of shelter; netting; staking; fitment of tree guards; mulching; basic plant protection; replacement planting; labelling; timber treatments; staining; cleaning of paving and fencing; re/pointing; replacement of broken paving; walling; fencing.

Candidates will compile a log or folio of the tasks carried out in the landscape aftercare treatments and this information may complement the evidence provided during their participation in other landscape Units such as: *Horticulture: Prepare an Area for Landscaping* and *Horticulture: Create an Area for Landscaping*.

## Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

### Outcome 1

Given that this is an introduction to landscape maintenance; the outcome should focus on basic issues, such as weeding; vegetation control; pruning; mulching; replacement planting; cleaning and replacement of paving and other hard landscape features; application of wood preservatives and paints. The Unit has been designed around either a soft or hard landscape development, although some projects may involve both soft and hard landscaping. On site discussions; visits and demonstrations would be useful to emphasise the maintenance requirements for landscape developments. Learning will take place throughout the duration of the Unit, by means of tutor explanations; demonstrations and group discussions to reinforce understanding. There is scope for candidates to research treatments; tools; equipment and associated materials and compile a folio.

### Outcome 2

Having learned about the key aftercare treatments; candidates will know the relevance of each task and be in a position to specify and customise for the requirements of the selected landscape project.

As part of a team, candidates will discuss and recommend an aftercare programme and suggest a logical order for the treatments. It may be that the sequence of events has to be altered in light of project adjustments for example; adverse weather or financial constraints and learners will note any adjustments which have to be made. They must however produce an acceptable aftercare planned programme even if it has to be adjusted when implemented.

Candidates will suggest a suitable initial aftercare programme; in which they should estimate timescales; quantities; costs and specify what should be done with waste.

Health and safety, as well as seasonal factors should also be included in the programme.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Horticulture: Landscape Aftercare (SCQF level 4)

### Outcome 3

Candidates will work and assist in the implementation of the landscape aftercare treatments.

They will also be familiar with and work towards high standards and will therefore learn to improve and make adjustments and alterations as they participate in the landscape project.

Throughout this Unit, candidates will record all activity; including their direct involvement in the implementation of the various landscape aftercare tasks and treatments.

Photographic evidence showing the relevant involvement of learners will prove useful, as well as acting as an interesting record of these activities.

By adopting the above learning and teaching approaches and through the Outcomes and corresponding Evidence Requirements, the Unit should provide candidates with an opportunity to develop the following essential skills for life, learning and work:

- ◆ Enterprise — by maintaining a landscaped development
- ◆ Employability — through increased knowledge and skills in Horticulture. Improved communication, working with others, numeracy and problem solving
- ◆ Sustainability — through maintaining a landscape site which may attract wildlife.
- ◆ Citizenship — through benefitting local communities and developing own confidence

## Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

### Outcome 1

An integrated approach may be taken, whereby Outcomes 1 and 2 maybe are studied concurrently, with the assessments structured in such a way that what they have researched for Outcome 1 may be utilised in Outcome 2.

Outcome 1 deals with general landscape aftercare; maintenance tools; equipment and resources; while Outcome 2 relates specifically to the landscape project which has been developed.

### Outcome 2

Candidates will become familiar with the specific landscape project aftercare requirements and they will make use of what they have learned in Outcome 1. Here candidates will assist in the production of a detailed aftercare programme for their selected landscape project.

As well as specifying and sequencing the order of events; candidates will also specify the cost of material, health and safety precautions, seasonal factors and waste disposal according to industry best practice.



## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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### Outcome 3

Candidates will be assessed in a practical setting; whereby the assessor will directly observe them carrying out the various landscape aftercare tasks. Observation checklists and photographs will provide the necessary evidence of carrying out the tasks.

Candidates must produce a log/record of their activity towards the successful implementation of the various aftercare treatments. The log must include a minimum of seven aftercare tasks carried out by the candidate.

### Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

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

In this Unit candidates will assist caring and maintaining a landscape.

Candidates will:

- ◆ describe key landscape aftercare tasks and the resources required to perform them
- ◆ assist in producing a basic maintenance programme for a landscape development
- ◆ carry out basic landscape aftercare tasks

This means that as candidates are doing this Unit they will be developing aspects of the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Problem Solving*, and *Working with Others*.

Communication skills are developed when sharing information and communicating with other members of the landscape aftercare group and when recording evidence. Critical thinking will occur through naturally planning and implementing aftercare tasks

Additionally candidates will develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Numeracy* when measuring areas; calculating resource requirements; estimating timings; and providing costs of materials; and *Information and Communication Technology* when recording and reviewing their involvement in the landscape aftercare

### 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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