



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Show Gardens: Design and Construction (SCQF level 8)

Unit code: H7BF 35

Superclass: SA

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Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to enable learners to participate in show garden activities for horticultural shows. They will develop a general understanding of the processes involved in staging a show garden and then have the opportunity to apply this knowledge to the design and construction of a show garden.

This Unit is suitable for those who wish to pursue a career in garden design or the wider horticulture industry.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the Unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Explain the process of staging a show garden.
- 2 Design a show garden.
- 3 Construct and display a show garden.

Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 8: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8)

Recommended entry to the Unit

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, however learners would benefit from good design, communication and project management skills in addition to knowledge of plants and materials. This may be demonstrated by the achievement of the following Units: *Garden Design Practice*; *Garden Design Skills*; *Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation*; *Constructing Hard Landscape Features* and *Planting Design* or equivalent.

Higher National Unit Specification: General information (cont)

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Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes for this Unit specification.

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

Context for delivery

If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Equality and inclusion

This Unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards

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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

Explain the process of staging a show garden.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Historical development of show gardens
- ◆ The role of the show organiser and other relevant bodies
- ◆ The role of designers, contractors and sponsors
- ◆ The application process
- ◆ Planning stages
- ◆ Project management
- ◆ Promotion and the role of the media
- ◆ Health and safety legislation

Outcome 2

Design a show garden.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Show garden design
- ◆ Selection and development of a theme within show gardens
- ◆ Importance of view to and from show garden
- ◆ Use of water, plants, hard and soft landscape materials, sculpture and accessories
- ◆ Selection of appropriate materials

Outcome 3

Construct and display a show garden.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Construction techniques appropriate for a given show garden
- ◆ Show regulations
- ◆ Health and Safety requirements
- ◆ Planning and implementing show garden construction
- ◆ Promotion and display of the show garden and interaction with visitors

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills across all Outcomes by showing that they can:

For Outcome 1:

- ◆ explain the historical development of show gardens.
- ◆ explain the roles of the show organiser and other bodies involved in the staging of horticultural events.
- ◆ explain the roles of the designer, contractors, sponsors and media.
- ◆ explain the application process.
- ◆ explain the stages in planning a show garden.
- ◆ explain the benefits and application of project management.
- ◆ explain relevant health and safety legislation which should be considered when staging a show garden.

For Outcome 2:

- ◆ design a show garden.
- ◆ develop a theme for a show garden.
- ◆ detail appropriate materials and features necessary to construct a show garden.

For Outcome 3:

- ◆ plan the construction of a show garden.
- ◆ construct a show garden using appropriate techniques and in accordance with defined show regulations and all relevant Health and Safety requirements.
- ◆ display the garden and interact in an informative manner with visitors.



Higher National Unit Support Notes

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Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit aims to highlight the unique factors which require to be considered when designing and constructing a show garden.

The content of this Unit can be delivered flexibly to reflect interests and approaches at a particular centre.

Outcome 1 examines the process of staging a show garden at a horticultural event. Learners will be encouraged to work in groups to develop an understanding of the process, which should range from inception, feasibility, construction, to break down and evaluation. Learners should be aware of the order and interdependent relationships between differing elements of the process.

The roles and responsibilities of the organisers of UK Horticultural shows (for example Royal Horticultural Society) and the other bodies that contribute to them (for example local authorities) should be considered. Learners will also become aware of the standards and regulations which these organisations bring to events, including judging criteria. The key elements of sponsorship and funding should also be explored. Learners should gain an appreciation of their part within a team.

Outcome 2 explores the unique factors which are involved in designing a show garden. Particular emphasis will be placed upon the ability to manipulate and guide viewers around the display. The interpretation and execution of the themes will be undertaken. Learners will be encouraged to critically evaluate show gardens and to analyse the characteristics of award-winning gardens. Learners should be encouraged to experiment with differing methods of display, explore themes for gardens and above all to recognise the importance of innovation within show garden design. In preparing design and construction plans, consideration should be given to the selection of appropriate materials and the probable differences between show gardens and more permanent construction.

Learners will normally each produce an individual design for a show garden. When the garden is to be constructed by a group, one of the designs will be selected for the construction phase.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Outcome 3 is central to the learner's understanding of the Unit. Learners will be expected to contribute to the construction of a show garden. This Outcome will give learners actual experience of on-site construction, project management and promotion and display of the show garden. The promotional aspects will normally include contributing to the design of a display leaflet, catalogue entry and on-site promotion following construction. The construction of the display garden will normally require learners to work as part of a team, ensuring that they identify roles for each member. Although in some circumstances this may not be feasible and an individual garden constructed by one learner can also fulfil the requirements of the Unit. Candidates will take cognisance of all show regulations and Health and Safety implications for on-site working.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

It is recommended that this Unit is taught through a series of lectures and group discussions which could be supplemented by practical classes that examine topics such as garden themes, material selection and drawing classes.

Where possible learners should visit a horticultural show and should meet professionals involved in all stages of the process of staging the show garden.

Guidance on approaches to assessment of this Unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

Outcome 1 could be assessed by an oral or written test of the learners understanding of the processes and organisations involved in staging a show garden. Alternatively a portfolio approach could be used across all three Outcomes with the learner relating Outcome 1 to the more practical work carried out for Outcomes 2 and 3.

Outcome 2

The assessment of this Outcome would normally be assessed by the production of design and construction plans. This assessment could be combined, in a portfolio, with the assessments for Outcomes 1 and 3.

Outcome 3

This Outcome could be assessed by the construction and display of a show garden at a horticultural event. This could be evidenced by a practical observation checklist to ensure the show garden meets the requirements of the show and is constructed safely.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Suitable approaches to generating evidence may include the production of design and construction plans, a workbook or portfolio, annotated drawing and practical assessment, which may be supported by oral explanation by the learner. In addition, the qualities of the end product will be assessed.

In drawing up assessments for the Unit consideration should be given to the scale of the project to be undertaken and the opportunities available for the learners to undertake the full range of activities including interaction with media and major show organisers, etc.

If the show garden is to be constructed at a major show, the learners are likely to be involved in a considerable time commitment for Outcome 3 and will also have an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills related to Outcome 1 throughout the implementation of the project. In this case, the assessment for Outcome 1 could be an oral test or portfolio of evidence collected in relation to their specific project.

If the show garden is to be smaller and/or shown at a smaller event, the opportunities for full involvement in all the of the facets listed in Outcome 1 are likely to be less and the learner's knowledge may be based on theory rather than practice for some aspects of the knowledge and skills for Outcome 1. In this case, a greater degree of emphasis could be placed on assessment of Outcome 1.

Opportunities for 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 learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment.

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential 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* at SCQF level 6 through the production of a written and/or oral report for Outcomes 1, 2 and 3. There may also be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving* and *Working with Others*, both at SCQF level 6, through the planning, design and construction of a show garden in Outcomes 2 and 3.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

Unit title: Show Gardens: Design and Construction (SCQF level 8)

This section will help you decide whether this is the Unit for you by explaining what the Unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the Unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This Unit is designed to enable you to participate in show garden activities for horticultural shows.

This Unit will explain the process of staging a show garden, allowing you to appreciate the application, planning and project management processes. The Unit will then look at the pivotal role of the Horticultural Show organisers and other organisations which support shows. It will then go on to look at individual roles of designers, contractors, sponsors and the media.

You will review historical development of show gardens and issues of theme selection and styling for gardens. Construction techniques particular to show gardens will be examined.

You will be expected to design a show garden and contribute to the construction of a garden at a show in accordance with show regulations.

In order to complete this Unit successfully you will be required to achieve a satisfactory level of performance in pieces of coursework, which will normally be in the form of a written or oral test, for Outcome 1, and the submission of show garden designs and a practical assignment to construct a show garden for Outcomes 2 and 3.