



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Plantsmanship

Unit code: H1JN 11

Superclass: SE

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Summary

This Unit is designed to develop the candidate's skills in plantsmanship. The candidate will develop the knowledge and skills required to identify a suitable site and the plants suitable for that site and to produce a plan for the plant collection. They will also have the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills developed in a practical context by implementing a plan for a plant collection and maintaining it post planting.

Outcomes

- 1 Plan and design a plant collection
- 2 Plant and maintain a plant collection

Recommended entry

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, however candidates would benefit from having completed Unit Plant Identification at SCQF Level 5 or equivalent.

Credit points and level

1 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: Plantsmanship

Core Skills

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

Complete Core Skill None

Core Skill component Planning and Organising 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: Plantsmanship

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

Plan and design a plant collection.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Establish a location and suitable growing environment for a plant collection.
- (b) Produce a plan to scale for the plant collection.
- (c) Specify, quantify and cost the plants and materials for the layout.

Outcome 2

Plant and maintain a plant collection.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe the soil cultivation requirements for the recommended plants and any relevant soil modifications for particular plants.
- (b) Cultivate and ameliorate the soil to a suitable condition for the plant collection.
- (c) Plant the specimens.
- (d) Specify the maintenance requirements following planting.
- (e) Perform a range of maintenance tasks: feeding; mulching; irrigation; staking; labelling; weeding; pruning; replacement planting.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Plantsmanship

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

Outcome 1

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required of the candidate's ability to select a suitable location for a plant collection. The candidate is required to produce a plan for the plant collection, drawn to scale. The collection should include a minimum of three plant groups from the following:

- ◆ Bedding Plants and Annuals
- ◆ Bulbs
- ◆ Herbaceous Perennials
- ◆ Alpines
- ◆ Shrubs
- ◆ Climbers
- ◆ Trees

The candidate must also specify the plants and materials required for the collection. The plants should be named using the binomial system; they should be described and profiled and quantities specified; as well as costed. The feature must be planned and drawn to scale and should not be less than 20 metres square

Outcome 2

A combination of written and/or recorded oral evidence and performance evidence is required for this Outcome. The candidate is required to produce an outline of the soil cultivation and improvement requirements for the plantings specified; the planting procedures and post maintenance recommendation. The candidates is also required to undertake the cultivation and improvement of the soil to suit the needs of the plantings; plant the specimens; perform the specified pre and post planting maintenance activities. Post planting maintenance tasks should include a minimum of four of the following:

- ◆ Feeding
- ◆ Mulching
- ◆ Irrigation
- ◆ Staking
- ◆ Labelling
- ◆ Weeding
- ◆ Pruning
- ◆ Replacement Planting

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Plantsmanship

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 could be regarded and treated as one large assignment; affording candidates the opportunity to locate a suitable site for a landscape feature of three or more plant groupings. Planning the feature involves many opportunities for candidates; as they specify; quantify; plant and maintain the feature.

Candidates will engage in the assignment along with others in their group and they will have an opportunity to assist in the creation of a new feature.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

The Unit would be ideally worked upon in groups; especially the initial planning part; the planting and the various maintenance activities. Each candidate will produce a plan and specify their own plants; with one of the designs possibly being the one implemented, or perhaps aspects of more than one being incorporated into the finished layout.

Visits to different gardens may assist candidates, while reference to books and relevant web sites will provide additional ideas.

Ideally candidates will have at least a basic plant knowledge prior to embarking on the planning assignment.

The Unit could be spread over the academic session, allowing time to develop and prepare the site; compile a knowledge of plants to select from; plant and undertake the various pre and post planting maintenance activities

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

This Unit lends itself to an integrated approach to assessment, where by the plan produced, or elements drawn from a number of plans, form the basis of the practical assessment for the second Outcome. In addition if this Unit is delivered as part of the National Certificate in Horticulture at SCQF Level 5 there may be opportunities to integrate the assessment of other Units with the practical aspects of this Unit.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Plantsmanship

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

While it may be possible to assess Outcome 1 of this Unit via e-assessment the highly practical nature of Outcome 2 does not lend itself to 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

The Plantsmanship Unit lends itself ideally to embedding all aspects of core/essential skills. It is envisaged that candidates will be working with others and communicating their ideas towards what will become an area to develop and plant. Having solved the initial problem of where the new feature should be located; students then have to research the plants to be selected and this may involve taking notes on garden visits; noting from texts, or browsing on the internet.

Students will have to measure and survey the feature; quantify the plants specified and estimate the costs involved.

Given the students have designed and thought out the layout of the feature; they should be able to produce an appropriate scheme of works; specifying timings and resource requirements.

Much of the content of the Unit is what employers will look for in employees. Practical skills; plant knowledge; working with others; problem solving; team and work ethics; enthusiasm; involvement; ownership; reliability and so much more besides.

This Unit has the Planning and Organising 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 Planning and Organising 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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