



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: Trees and Shrubs

Unit code: H1K7 11

Superclass: SE

Publication date: May 2012

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Summary

This Unit will enable the candidate to select, establish and maintain trees and shrubs in landscape features. They will develop an understanding of how trees and shrubs are used in landscape features, develop their identification skills and have the opportunity to prepare a planting plan for a given area. They will also have the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills by planting a maintaining trees and shrubs in a landscape feature.

Outcomes

- 1 Describe how trees and shrubs are used in landscape features.
- 2 Identify specimens from a range of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs.
- 3 Prepare a planting plan for an area of shrubs and/or trees.
- 4 Plant a selection of trees and shrubs.
- 5 Maintain a landscape feature planted with different trees and shrubs.

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: Trees and Shrubs

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: Trees and Shrubs

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

Describe how trees and shrubs are used in landscape features.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The uses of trees in landscape features are clearly described.
- (b) The uses of shrubs in landscape features are clearly described.

Outcome 2

Identify specimens from a range of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Deciduous shrubs are correctly identified.
- (b) Evergreen shrubs are correctly identified.
- (c) Deciduous trees are correctly identified.
- (d) Evergreen trees are correctly identified.

Outcome 3

Prepare a planting plan for an area of shrubs and/or trees.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Soil conditions are correctly evaluated.
- (b) Growth habit rates are clearly explained.
- (c) Siting and spacing are correctly used with reference to the shrubs and/or trees.
- (d) Maintenance requirements are clearly described and correctly used.
- (e) Information is presented in a neat and accurate format.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: Trees and Shrubs

Outcome 4

Plant a selection of trees and shrubs.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The plants are correctly prepared for planting.
- (b) Planting holes are prepared according to the requirements of the tree or shrub.
- (c) Staking and tying procedures are correctly followed.
- (d) Fertiliser and/or compost is correctly applied.
- (e) The plant holes are correctly refilled to the appropriate depth.
- (f) The work methods of and practices demonstrated by the candidate are safe and in accordance with the requirements of all relevant Health and Safety regulations.

Outcome 5

Maintain a landscape feature planted with different trees and shrubs.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The reason and timing for pruning is clearly explained.
- (b) The need for the formative pruning of recently planted trees is clearly explained and correctly carried out.
- (c) Appropriate nutrients are correctly applied.
- (d) Appropriate weed control methods are correctly used.
- (e) The work methods of and practices demonstrated by the candidate are safe and in accordance with the requirements of all relevant Health and Safety regulations.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: Trees and Shrubs

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

For Outcomes 1 and 2 written and/or recorded oral evidence should be produced by the candidate to meet the requirements of all the Performance Criteria. For Outcome 2 nine examples of each category (deciduous shrubs, evergreen shrubs, deciduous trees and evergreen trees) should be identified by the candidate (using botanical names). The trees and shrubs used in the identification exercise could be in either immature or mature stage.

For Outcome 3 evidence should be provided to meet the requirements of all Performance Criteria in the form of a planting plan.

For Outcomes 4 and 5 candidates are required to provide practical evidence, of planting a selection of trees (to include a staked standard) and shrubs for Outcome 4 and of pruning and maintaining a selection of trees and shrubs for Outcome 5.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: Trees and Shrubs

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

Corresponding to the Outcomes:

- 1 Trees and shrubs in association with buildings, woodland areas, parkland, sport, for shelterbelts and windbreaks, screens, bank stabilisation, roadside and street pedestrian area planting. Value of flowers, colour of foliage, fruit, coloured stems and evergreens.
- 2 Identification of nine different species in each of the groupings of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs.
- 3 Preparation of a planting plan:
 - ◆ Growth habit and growth rate
 - ◆ Ecological preferences
 - ◆ Siting and spacing criteria
 - ◆ Maintenance requirements
- 4 Planting:
 - ◆ whips
 - ◆ seedling/young trees
 - ◆ standard trees
 - ◆ heavy standards
 - ◆ shrubs
 - ◆ bare or ball root systems
 - ◆ staking and tying
 - ◆ planting hole preparation
 - ◆ application of compost and fertiliser
- 5 Pruning of shrubs:
 - ◆ flowering on current season's wood
 - ◆ flowering on previous season's wood
 - ◆ flowering on wood two or more years old
 - ◆ coloured stems

Reasons for pruning; timing of pruning.

Formative pruning of recently planted trees.

Removing branches on mature trees. Weed control, applying nutrient, mulching, thinning, re-tying, removing stakes.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: Trees and Shrubs

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

As much of this Unit as possible should be covered in a practical situation.

Plant catalogues, slides and pictures would help candidates identify trees and shrubs and prepare a planting plan.

Demonstration, and as extensive practice as possible, is suggested for pruning work.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill 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.

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 for each Outcome.

Outcome 1 could be assessed by a written and/or recorded oral test consisting of ten structured questions.

Outcome 2 could be assessed by an identification test which requires the candidate to correctly identify nine each of the following: deciduous shrubs, evergreen shrubs, deciduous trees and evergreen trees.

Outcome 3 could be assessed by a graphical exercise used with observation checklist — the candidate is required to prepare a planting plan for a specified area.

Outcome 4 could be assessed by practical exercises used with observation checklist — the candidate is required to plant a range of trees and shrubs.

Outcome 5 could be assessed by practical exercises used with observation checklist — the candidate is required to prune a range of trees and shrubs and complete maintenance procedures.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: Trees and Shrubs

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 e-checklists. 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)*.

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

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2012

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre, telephone 0845 279 1000.