



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: Specialist Plantings

Unit code: H1K9 11

Superclass: SE

Publication date: May 2012

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Summary

This Unit will enable the candidate to select, use, establish and maintain rock garden and alpine plants; water garden and pond plants; bog garden plants; woodland garden plants; peat garden plants and dry and gravel garden plants. They will have the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills developed through producing a planting plan and planting and maintaining a range of specialist plants.

Outcomes

- 1 Identify plants relevant to specialist plantings and describe their uses in soft landscaping.
- 2 Describe the conditions required by each of the specialist 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: Specialist 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: Specialist 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 specialist plantings and describe their uses in soft landscaping.

Performance Criteria

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

Outcome 2

Describe the conditions required by each of the specialist groups.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The environmental conditions required by each of the specialist plant groups are correctly explained.

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.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: Specialist Plantings

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 prepared.
- (c) Plants are accurately positioned.
- (d) Appropriate planting techniques are applied.
- (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.

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) Pest and disease controls are correctly applied.
- (g) 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: Specialist Plantings

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Written or recorded oral evidence is required for Outcome 1. The candidate will be required to identify 20 plants (by botanical name) and briefly describe a suitable use for each.

For Outcome 2 written and/or recorded oral evidence should be provided covering the following environmental conditions: soil type; acidity/alkalinity; free or impeded drainage; aspect; topography; exposure and need for support.

For Outcome 3 evidence should be provided in the form of a planting plan for a plant group. For Outcomes 4 and 5 practical evidence should be provided, preparing a site and planting representative samples from two plant groups for Outcome 4 and maintaining two groups of amenity plants for Outcome 5.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: Specialist 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 specialist plants in the Unit consists of:

- ◆ rock garden and alpine plants
- ◆ water gardens and ponds
- ◆ bog gardens
- ◆ woodland gardens
- ◆ peat gardens
- ◆ dry and gravel gardens

Corresponding to the Outcomes:

- 1 Three examples from each group and any other 2 plants should be covered (ie 20 different plants). Recognition of any important growth characteristics and uses associated with the plants selected.
- 2 Soil type; acidity/alkalinity; free or impeded drainage; aspect; topography; exposure; need for support.
- 3 Planting plan showing details of surroundings, aspect, distribution, spacing and groupings as appropriate.
- 4 Preparation of ground; preparation of planting material; planting; provision of support (where necessary).
- 5 Weeding; pruning; feeding; replacement of plant material, mulching; dead heading; training; irrigation; pest and disease control.

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 by visits to areas providing examples of the material in this Unit. Where appropriate, candidates should acquire experience of grouping and associating plants in different ways. Pictures, slides and possibly video taped material of gardens outwith the general college area should be used to extend that experience using appropriate examples.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: Specialist Plantings

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*, *Numeracy*, *Working with Others* and *Problem Solving* 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

For Outcome 1 marking for the identification of the 20 plants could be based on the following:

- ◆ genera 2 marks
- ◆ species 1 mark
- or
- ◆ genera 2 marks
- ◆ cultivar 1 mark
- ◆ common name 1 mark

- ◆ correct use 1 mark

No marks should be deducted for poor spelling provided that the names are recognisable.

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.

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)*.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: Specialist Plantings

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.