



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Plant Identification (SCQF Level 4)

Unit code: H1YJ 10

Superclass: 10

Publication date: August 2012

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Summary

This Unit will introduce candidates with little or no experience to plant identification and the binomial plant name system. Candidates will be introduced to plants keys, learn local common names for plants and understand the limits of using this type of name.

This is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Introduction to Horticulture at SCQF level 4. It is also suitable for use as a free-standing Unit.

Outcomes

- 1 Identify plants using a simple key.
- 2 Identify plants using common names.

Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre but candidates should show a clear interest in horticulture or plants.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit 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.*

General information (cont)

Unit title: Plant Identification (SCQF Level 4)

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: Plant Identification (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.

Outcome 1

Identify plants using a simple key.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe simple plant keys.
- (b) Identify a selection of plants using a simple key.

Outcome 2

Identify plants using common names.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe the use of common names in plant identification.
- (b) Identify plants using common names.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Written and/or oral recorded evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Evidence for Outcome 1 will be generated under open-book conditions and candidates must:

- ◆ use of simple plant keys to identify 10 plants

Evidence for Outcome 2 will be generated under supervised closed-book conditions and candidates must:

- ◆ an accurate description of a minimum of 10 common names used in plant identification
- ◆ identification of 30 plants using common or Latin names

All 30 plants may be identified on one occasion. Alternatively plants may be identified in smaller groups down to a minimum of five, eg six groups of five.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Plant Identification (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 an optional Unit of the National Certificate in Horticulture (SCQF level 4), but could also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit supports the following National Occupational Standard as set by the sector skills council LANTRA:

- ◆ LANHM1 Use botanical nomenclature to identify and classify plants

This Unit is designed to introduce candidates to plant identification in a progressive way.

Candidates will initially understand the standard binomial naming system for plants.

Candidates will learn the limitations of using common plant names.

Plant keys are a valuable aid to plant identification and candidates will be introduced to simple plant keys.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

This Unit should be delivered in a practical environment with a focus on plants which candidates will encounter in other Units which form part of the National Certificate in An Introduction to Horticulture at SCQF Level 4. Plant identification is an essential skill in the horticulture industry and this unit introduces candidates to identification in a progressive way. This Unit will help develop candidates' Core Skills and confidence in their learning ability. The plants that are to be identified can be placed into groups by type or habitat for example trees, shrubs, alpine etc. Where possible, plants which have a common name which is also the Latin name, should be used: for example Viburnum, Cotoneaster, Begonia, Lobelia, Dahlia etc. The plant identification should cover small groups of plants at a time rather than all at once to allow the candidates to build up their knowledge in a progressive way.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Outcome 1 Identify 10 plants using plant keys which at this level should be designed to lead to the identification of the plant in stages. The stages would be determined by leaf shape, growth habit, colour or unique features.

Outcome 2 This Outcome requires the candidates to identify 30 plants using their local or common name. These plants could be divided into groups of five by type, habitat or unique features.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Plant Identification (SCQF Level 4)

By adopting the above learning and teaching approaches 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:

- ◆ Employability — through developing practical skills to industry standards and working on time limited tasks.
- ◆ Sustainability — the Unit could develop skills in sustainable development as it contributes to the maintenance and continuation of particular plant species.

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 be introduced to plants keys, how to identify plants and learn local common names for plants.

Candidates will:

- ◆ identify plants using a simple key
- ◆ identify plants using common names

This means that as candidates are doing this unit they will be developing aspects of the Core Skills in *Communication* and *Problem Solving*.

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 Business Development and Customer Support team, telephone 0303 333 0330.