

-SQA- SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

**Hanover House
24 Douglas Street
GLASGOW G2 7NQ**

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE DESCRIPTOR

-Module Number- 1212602 **-Session-1992-93**
-Superclass- SE

-Title- INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIC HORTICULTURE

-DESCRIPTION-

Purpose This module is intended to introduce gardeners and small growers to organic methods of growing.

The candidate will gain an understanding of the principles and main techniques of organic growing and know the role of the main organisations involved.

Preferred Entry Level No formal entry requirements.

Outcomes The candidate should:

1. describe the role of the main organisations involved in organic horticulture;
2. apply the principles and techniques of organic horticulture.

Assessment Procedures Acceptable performance in this module will be satisfactory achievement of all the Performance Criteria specified for each Outcome.

The following abbreviations are used below:

PC Performance Criteria
IA Instrument of Assessment

Note: The Outcomes and PCs are mandatory and cannot be altered. The IA may be altered by arrangement with SQA. (Where a range of performance is indicated, this should be regarded as an extension of the PCs and is therefore mandatory.)

OUTCOME 1 DESCRIBE THE ROLE OF THE MAIN ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN ORGANIC HORTICULTURE

- (a) The identification of the main organisations involved in organic horticulture is correct.
- (b) The description of the role of the main organisations involved in organic horticulture is accurate and comprehensive.
- (c) The description of the symbol system operated by a selected organisation is accurate.

IA Written Assignment

The candidate will be asked to write an assignment which will give an overview of the organic movement in the UK and detail the symbol system for one chosen organisation.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcome will be based on all of the performance criteria being met.

OUTCOME 2 APPLY THE PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES OF ORGANIC HORTICULTURE

PCs

- (a) The description of the basic principles of organic horticulture is accurate.
- (b) The description of preparation and maintenance techniques which can be applied in organic horticulture is accurate.
- (c) The application of preparation and maintenance techniques is correct and carried out to agreed safety standards.

IA PCs (a) and (b) Restricted Response Questions

The candidate could be set a total of six restricted response questions covering the following:

- (i) principles of organic gardening growing;
- (ii) compost making;
- (iii) green manures;
- (iv) encouraging natural predators of pests/parasites;
- (v) cultural methods of pest, disease and weed control;
- (vi) the use of biological control agents.

Satisfactory achievement of this part of the Outcome will be based on the candidate giving 5 correct responses and on both the performance criteria being met.

IA PC (c) Practical Exercise

The candidate should carry out a practical exercise covering two of the following techniques:

- (i) building and monitoring a compost heap;
- (ii) preparing ground and sowing one green manure crop;
- (iii) planting attractant plants/wild flowers;
- (iv) carrying out one cultural control method to a growing crop;
- (v) introducing a biological control agent to a growing crop.

Satisfactory achievement of this part of the Outcome will be based on Performance Criterion (c) being met.

The following sections of the descriptor are offered as guidance. They are not mandatory.

CONTENT/CONTEXT

Corresponding to the Outcomes:

1. An overview of the organic movement covering the main organisations involved i.e:

The United Kingdom Register of Organic Food Standards (UKROFS);
 The Soil Association;
 The Organic Growers Association;
 British Organic Farmers;
 Elm Farm Research Centre;
 The Henry Doubleday Research Association;
 The Biodynamic Agricultural Association;
 Scottish Organic Producers Association;
 The International Federation of Organic Movements.

In addition local groups and contacts should be covered.

2. Definitions of organic growing should be covered and also the reasons for converting to organic gardening/growing.

The main techniques of organic growing should be covered preferably in a practical context. These should include:

recycling plant and animal wastes;
 the use of green manures;
 acceptable supplementary nutrients;
 encouragement of wildlife and natural predators/parasites of pests;
 cultural methods of pest, disease and weed control;
 the use of biological control agents.

(NB. A certificate may be required for spray application).

SUGGESTED LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES

1. Open Book Assessment

The candidate should prepare a profile on ONE relevant organisation concerned with organic gardening/growing to include:

a brief history;
size of organisation's membership;
the aims of the organisation;
details of functions, publications research etc.

Assessments

2. (a) + (b) The student should complete FIVE correct restricted response questions on the principles and main techniques of organic horticulture.

(c) The candidate should carry out TWO operations from the following:

build, monitor and turn a compost heap;
prepare ground, select and sow a green manure crop;
carry out ONE cultural method of pest, disease or weed control e.g. barriers, traps, mulches etc.;
introduce ONE biological control agent to a crop; plant attractant plants/wild flowers.

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