



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: Herbaceous Perennials

Unit code: H1KB 11

Superclass: SE

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Version: 01

Summary

This Unit will enable candidates to undertake herbaceous planting in soft landscape features.

Outcomes

- 1 Identify herbaceous plants suitable for use in borders, island beds or as ground cover and describe their growth characteristics.
- 2 Prepare a conventional planting plan for a border or an island bed.
- 3 Prepare a border for planting and plant a group of plants.
- 4 Maintain a herbaceous border or island bed during a period of growth.

Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit(s) 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: Herbaceous Perennials

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: Herbaceous Perennials

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 herbaceous plants suitable for use in borders, island beds or as ground cover and describe their growth characteristics.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Plant profiles describing plant characteristics are correctly completed.
- (b) Plant profiles are complete in terms of plant name, height and spread, decorative features, flower line, soil and environmental requirements.
- (c) Information is presented in a clear and concise manner.

Outcome 2

Prepare a conventional planting plan for a border or an island bed.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The plan is neatly presented and the correct scale is used.
- (b) Plants are appropriately spaced and take into consideration height grading.
- (c) The choice of plants is appropriate to the plan.
- (d) The plant layout is correct and incorporates planting in drifts.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 3

Prepare a border for planting and plant a group of plants.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The area of ground to be planted is correctly marked out.
- (b) Plants are correctly divided.
- (c) Plants are correctly spaced.
- (d) An appropriate quantity of fertiliser is applied correctly.
- (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 4

Maintain a herbaceous border or island bed during a period of growth.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Fertiliser or mulch is correctly applied if required.
- (b) Plants are staked at the correct stage of growth.
- (c) The maintenance requirements for a herbaceous border or an island bed are correctly explained.
- (d) 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.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

For Outcomes 1 and 2 written and/or recorded oral evidence is required to cover all of the Performance Criteria. For Outcome 1 plant profiles should be completed for 20 plants.

For Outcomes 3 and 4 candidates are required to produce practical evidence, to prepare a site (a border) and plant a group of plants for Outcome 3 and to maintain a herbaceous border, including irrigation, weed control and mulching, dead heading, replanting up and pest and disease control for Outcome 4. In addition written or recorded oral evidence is required for Performance Criteria (c) of Outcome 4.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Soft Landscaping: Herbaceous Perennials

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 Binomial system of naming plants to be used. A range of herbaceous plants to be studied and the key characteristics of each plant covered.
- 2 Scale, orientation, choice of species. Seasonality of plants, height, compatibility and appropriateness to situation. Sources of information.
- 3 Cultivation; fertiliser; marking out; planting techniques. Outline of groupings with sand/sawdust plant in appropriate groups; labelling and tidying.
- 4 Maintenance features would include — suppressing weeds, fertilising and mulching, staking/netting at right stage of growth, autumn pruning, dead heading. Renewal every fifth year. Plants to be lifted, divided, and heeled in. Border double dug and farm yard manure incorporated. Replanting in spring.

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 in visits to areas providing examples of the material in this Unit.

Experience should be provided of grouping plants in different ways. Pictures, slides and possibly video taped material of gardens outwith the general centre area should be used to provide wider experience and examples.

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*, *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.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Outcome 1 could be assessed through the production of plant profiles for 20 herbaceous plants, which should include, for each plant, name (botanical) height and spread, decorative features, flower line and soil and environmental requirements.

Outcome 2 could be assessed through the production of planting plan. The plan could be presented electronically or on paper and must use an appropriate scale. It should also detail the plants to be used, their spacing and layout.

Outcomes 3 and 4 could be assessed jointly through observation of the practical activities carried out, recorded by observation checklist, where the candidate prepares and plants a border (Outcome 3) and subsequently maintains it (Outcome 4). This evidence could be supported by written or recorded oral evidence of the candidate's calculation of quantities of fertiliser and an explanation of the maintenance requirements.

If this Unit is delivered as part of the NC in Horticulture at SCQF Level 5 or other relevant Group Awards there may be opportunities to integrate the assessment of aspects of this Unit with other Unit assessments. For example it may be possible to generate evidence for Outcome 2 and aspects of the Unit *Computer Aided Drafting: Landbased Industries* if the candidate produces an electronic planting plan. There may also be opportunities to integrate the assessment of the practical aspects of this Unit (Outcomes 3 and 4) with other practical Units such as, *Planting and Maintenance*, *Use of Hand Tools in Horticulture* or *Plant Identification*.

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

It may be possible to assess aspects of Outcomes 1 and 2 through e-assessment but the highly practical nature of Outcomes 3 and 4 makes the entire Unit difficult to assess via 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: Herbaceous Perennials

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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