



## National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Allotment Gardening (SCQF level 4)

**Unit code:** H1X4 10

**Superclass:** SD

**Publication date:** July 2012

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

## Summary

This Unit is designed to develop skills in growing a range of fruit and vegetables from planting to harvest in an allotment garden. Candidates will select, plant out and care for a range of fruit and vegetables.

The Unit is for candidates with little or no experience of horticulture.

The Unit is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in An Introduction to Horticulture (SCQF level 4) but can also be taken as a freestanding Unit and may be particularly appealing to new allotment holders.

## Outcomes

- 1 Gather information on a range of fruit and vegetables for growing in an allotment.
- 2 Carry out preparation of a small production area.
- 3 Plant out an area with a selection of fruit and vegetable crops.
- 4 Carry out aftercare of crops.
- 5 Harvest a selection of fruit and vegetable crops.

## Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre and the Unit is aimed at candidates with little or no experience of horticulture, it would however benefit candidates following the National certificate in an Introduction to Horticulture at SCQF level 4 to have completed the following Units:

H09A 10 *Gardening Skills*  
H1YL 10 *Horticulture: Prepare an area for Landscaping*  
H1YH 10 *Horticulture: Create a Landscaped Site*  
H1YM 10 *Horticulture: Landscaped Aftercare*

## **General information (cont)**

**Unit title:** Allotment Gardening (SCQF level 4)

### **Credit points and level**

1 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.*

### **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:** Allotment Gardening (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**

Gather information on a range of fruit and vegetables for growing in an allotment.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify a range of suitable crops for growing.
- (b) Research the needs and cultural requirements of each of the crops chosen.

### **Outcome 2**

Carry out preparation of a small production area.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Clear the area of any debris.
- (b) Cultivate the area.
- (c) Apply fertiliser/organic matter.
- (d) Level the area ready for planting/sowing.

### **Outcome 3**

Plant out an area with a selection of fruit and vegetable crops.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Assist with designing a cropping plan.
- (b) Assist in marking the area out as per cropping plan.
- (c) Carry out final ground preparation.
- (d) Plant/sow plants.
- (e) Leave area in tidy condition

### **Outcome 4**

Carry out aftercare of crops.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Weed area if appropriate.
- (b) Water the crop.
- (c) Apply protection/mulch.
- (d) Control pest and diseases.
- (e) Feed the crop.

## **National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Allotment Gardening (SCQF level 4)

### **Outcome 5**

Harvest a selection of fruit and vegetable crops.

- (a) Harvest the crop in according to appropriate manner.
- (b) Store crops in appropriate manner.
- (c) Leave area in a suitable condition.
- (d) Store tools and equipment safely, according to instructions.

### **Evidence Requirements for this Unit**

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

In Outcome 1, written or oral recorded evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria. Evidence will be generated under open-book conditions. Compliance with Health and Safety legislation is necessary for all practical tasks especially when working with tools, equipment and pesticides. PPE must be worn as necessary.

Candidate should gather information on a minimum of five crops for production, three should be vegetable and two should be fruit.

These could include the following:

- ◆ potatoes
- ◆ carrots
- ◆ onions
- ◆ beetroot
- ◆ salad crops
- ◆ brassicae
- ◆ protected crops, eg tomatoes
- ◆ strawberries
- ◆ blackcurrants
- ◆ raspberries

The soil and environmental needs of the selected crops are correctly specified.

Three cultural requirements of the selected crops are correctly stated.

The assessor must be satisfied that evidence submitted is that of the individual candidate.

Performance evidence will be required for Outcomes 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Evidence for these Outcomes can be generated holistically under supervised open-book conditions.

## National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

### Unit title: Allotment Gardening (SCQF level 4)

Candidates must assist with planting and harvesting three vegetable crops and two fruit crops from the choice in Outcome 1. Candidates must:

- ◆ clear all debris safely and correctly in accordance with instruction
- ◆ cultivate an area either by hand or by mechanical means including cultural control of weeds
- ◆ carry out necessary preparation of the planting area according to instructions
- ◆ apply fertiliser or organic matter to area
- ◆ assist in designing a cropping plan for the area
- ◆ assist in marking area out as per cropping plan
- ◆ carry out final ground preparation in accordance with instructions
- ◆ plant/sow plants in accordance with instructions. This will include at least two of the following:
  - tubers
  - seeds
  - plug plants
  - grow bags
- ◆ leave area in tidy condition
- ◆ weed area if appropriate
- ◆ water crop if necessary
- ◆ apply protection/mulch in accordance with instructions
- ◆ control of pest and diseases in accordance with instructions
- ◆ feed crop as per manufacturer's instructions
- ◆ harvest crop in accordance with instructions
- ◆ store crops in accordance with instructions
- ◆ leave area in a suitable condition
- ◆ store tools and equipment safely according to instructions

## National Unit specification: support notes

**Unit title:** Allotment Gardening (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 aligned to aspects of the following National Occupational Standards set by the Sector Skills Council, LANTRA.

- CS1 Maintain the Safety of Self and Others in the Workplace
- CS12 Assist with Constructing Structures and Surfaces
- CS13 Assist with the Maintenance of Grass Surfaces
- CS14 Assist with Maintaining Structures and Surfaces
- CS15 Assist with the Preparation of Equipment
- CS 28 Assist with Identifying the Presence of, and Controlling Common Pests and Diseases
- CS48 Assist with Planting and Establishing Plants
- CS49 Assist with Maintaining Plants
- CS51 Assist with the Propagation of Plants from Seed
- CS52 Assist with Harvesting, Collecting and Preparing Crops
- CS53 Assist with the Preparation of the Growing Median

This is intended as an introductory Unit to suit all candidates and centres with horticultural facilities. It should be taught as an introduction to allotment gardening and introduce the candidate to grow a simple selection of fruit and vegetable crops.

Candidates should be given as wide a range of experiences as possible in a very practical setting, ie most of the delivery will be hands on and take place in an outside environment.

The Unit is aimed at candidates with little or no experience of horticulture. This could include school leavers, adult returners, those seeking a career change or people who are interested in having their own allotment.

The Unit is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Horticulture (SCQF level 4) but can also be taken as a freestanding Unit, for example it would be attractive as a short course for new allotment holders.

#### Outcome 1

Knowledge of where to find information on growing crops for an allotment, to include books, seed firms' catalogues, fertiliser company's leaflets and advisory information centres (eg Local Authority demonstration garden, Allotment Societies and Horticultural Societies).

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Allotment Gardening (SCQF level 4)

### Outcomes 2–5

Knowledge and understanding of basic standard vegetable growing terms and how they apply to the allotment.

Cultural requirements will include soil heat, protection methods, eg cloche, deep beds, water requirements, fertiliser requirements, weed suppressing materials, manures, fertilisers (organic and inorganic), techniques of cultivation, plant densities, drilling, hoeing, ridging, thinning, weed control and pruning for fruit.

Preparation of a specific cropping programme for an allotment showing an arrangement of vegetables and fruit crops.

Learning should include:

- ◆ cultivation and sowing of vegetables/salads
- ◆ transplanting, thinning and hoeing techniques
- ◆ the application of both basal and top dressing fertilisers
- ◆ pruning
- ◆ fertiliser treatment of two soft fruits
- ◆ harvesting

### Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

While some formal teaching sessions may be required to introduce the basic principles of allotment gardening, the Unit should be practical and delivered in an allotment environment.

Candidates will be made aware of health and safety rules and the manufacturers' guidelines which must be followed and of the need to wear protective clothing when working with tools, equipment and pesticides.

Ideally this Unit should be taught by developing an area from a bare barren site to completion. The area should be of a realistic size keeping in mind the notional length of the Unit and the ability of the candidates. Group work is encouraged with all candidates contributing to the successful growing and harvesting a range of crops.

Outcome 1 — candidates will be presented with a range of catalogues to carry out research on suitable crops. Candidates should work in groups and their individual findings compiled in a portfolio. This will include crops to be grown and include the cultivation requirements, time of harvest and any other individual requirements of the selected crops This should also enable candidates to gather information on terminology.

Outcomes 2–5 — It may be helpful to visit Local Authority Demonstration Gardens. Candidates must assist in preparing cropping programmes for a plot.

It would also be useful to engage a visiting representative from the Scottish Allotment and Gardening society for an insight into the work of this organisation.

## **National Unit specification: support notes (cont)**

### **Unit title:** Allotment Gardening (SCQF level 4)

Where possible most of the available delivery time should be spent working on the plot assisting with all stages of work from the initial cultivation to harvest. All early vegetable sowing and establishment stages should be covered on an allotment. With fruit it is the winter/spring treatment which is most critical.

If this Unit is delivered in conjunction with other SCQF level 4 Units there may also be opportunities to integrate the assessment of this Unit with other practical Units in the award

By adopting the above learning and teaching approaches and/or 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.

**Citizenship** — the Unit could provide opportunities to demonstrate citizenship skills if, for example, the Unit is delivered as part of a community project in conjunction with a Local Authority. The candidate would also be gaining a greater understanding of the care of allotments for community use.

**Sustainability** — the Unit could develop skills in sustainable development as it focuses on aspects of environmental improvement and maintenance.

### **Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit**

The recommended instrument of assessment is a candidate portfolio which will include observation checklists and a diary of events and tasks undertaken.

Due to the practical nature of Outcomes 2–5 they lend themselves to assessment through the completion of practical checklists with the assessor observing and recording candidates carrying out the various task as detailed in the Evidence Requirements.

Photographic evidence could be used as evidence with each candidate building up a simple portfolio of before, during and after photographs.

The candidate must be informed of the tasks which contribute to summative assessment. Any unsatisfactory aspects of performance should 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.



## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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### 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 the basics of allotment gardening.

Candidates will:

- ◆ identify, assess the relevance and consider the significance of a range of factors that would affect the planting of selected plant types in an allotment
- ◆ work co-operatively with others to ensure planting is carried out to an acceptable standard
- ◆ interpret guidelines on planting, mulching and fertilizing crops suitable for an allotment
- ◆ interact with others in planting, caring for, and harvesting allotment crops

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

### 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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