

Introduction to Horticulture

Plumpton College Horticulture Courses

The Horticulture Department has recently acquired accreditation as a Centre of Vocational Excellence for Horticulture Technologies (CoVE), majoring on urban green space management. This award has helped finance new horticultural classrooms, which have recently been completed and a new Horticultural practical teaching facility has been developed as a result of this achievement. As well as the new CoVE building, a fully equipped garden design studio is also available.



The Department enjoys extensive practical facilities around the college campus, which are used for plant establishment, maintenance and identification. The sportsfield has a cricket table, football and rugby pitches, as well as two all-weather tennis courts. Two aluminium glasshouses provide an area for protected cropping.

The glass area is divided into various thermostatically activated environments, in which all irrigation systems have been updated-this includes a new mist propagation system and weaning bed. Two walk-in polythene tunnels are an addition, both to the protected growing area and the protected teaching environment.

A newly purchased non-operational, commercial nursery has been purchased in the East of the County, near Brightling, East Sussex. Extensive walk-in polythene tunnels, a mist propagation unit, outside cropping area and brick buildings will provide ideal development facilities at this site.

Two new full-time Horticulture courses are now successfully running at Plumpton College:

- Foundation Degree (FdSc) in Horticulture
- Foundation Degree (FdSc) in Garden Design

Foundation degrees are new qualifications that are designed to be equivalent to two years of an undergraduate degree, but very flexible and vocationally-orientated.

The **FdA in Horticulture** course is a two-year full-time programme and is designed specifically for students wishing to enter the Horticulture trade or start their own Horticulture-related business. It combines both practical and theoretical understanding of the Horticulture industry with valuable work experience, including visits to Horticultural businesses and gardens.

The course focuses on science, business and garden design modules, the Horticulture trade and business planning and development, plus modules that correspond to the Royal Horticulture Society (RHS) Diploma syllabus. This allows students to gain the RHS as an additional qualification during their two years at Plumpton College.



The **FdSc in Garden Design** is a two-year full-time programme. It has a strong practical bias and involves students working in Plumpton College's CoVE's award-winning design studio, using the College's well-equipped and purpose-built building. Students concentrate on basic plant knowledge in year 1, looking at topics such as garden plant identification, hard landscape design, and drawing board skills, whilst year 2 focuses on design elements. Business modules are offered as options.

All students complete a period of work experience, which has taken enterprising students to a variety of placements including Wakehurst Place (Kew Gardens), various National Trust Gardens and Brighton City Council.

Graduates from the Horticulture Department at Plumpton College can be found in all sectors of the Horticulture industry and throughout the world.



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