

# A CAREER IN Horticulture



## Introduction to Horticulture

The horticulture industry contributes significantly to the Scottish economy and local communities. It is also one of the most advanced within the UK, with lots of research and development taking place.

The main career options are either Production Horticulture or Amenity, Landscaping and Sports Turf.

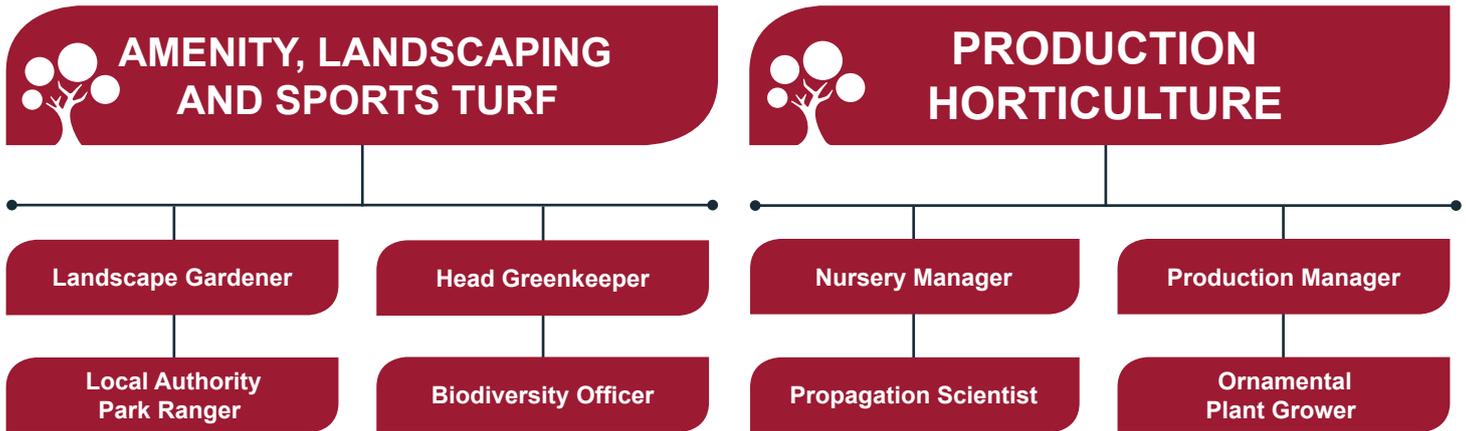
Whichever route you want your career to take, you will be working with the latest technologies, developing new species and innovative methods of growing, working in partnership with people and businesses from across the country and the world.

If using your creativity and getting your hands dirty sounds appealing, or using your knowledge of science and technology is more up your street, a career in horticulture could be for you.



## Career Options

There is a great demand for new entrants and many different pathways into the industry. Horticulture is always changing, with advances in pest control, growing techniques, machinery and cultivation. There are opportunities for everyone, but if you are technically minded or want to start your own business, you can make fantastic progress. Here are some examples of jobs available.



 **2,900+**

*There are over 2,900 garden centre businesses in the UK, employing over 64,000 people*

 **5 billion+**

*The UK horticulture industry is worth over £5 billion each year, and generates thousands of career opportunities*

 **200,000**

*A top quality football pitch contains 150-200,000 leaf blades in every square metre. Each one of them needs skilled care and attention*

# Routes into a career in Horticulture

Depending on your current skills and experience, you could enter at different levels.

JOB LEVELS	VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS	SCQF LEVEL	ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS
Director Level		12	Doctorate
		11	Masters
Managerial Roles		10	Honours Degree
		9	Degree
		8	HND Horticulture HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship
Supervisory Roles	Scottish Vocational Qualification	7	HNC Horticulture HNC Landscape Management
	Modern Apprenticeship	6	Highers
Supervised Roles	Scottish Vocational Qualification Modern Apprenticeship	5	NC Horticulture NC Horticulture with Landscape Construction
Entry Level	Scottish Vocational Qualification	4	NC Introduction to Horticulture Skills for Work – Rural Skills NC Rural Skills

**USEFUL LINKS**

Argyll College UHI

[www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk)

Gosta Training

[www.gostatraining.co.uk](http://www.gostatraining.co.uk)

Borders College

[www.borderscollege.ac.uk](http://www.borderscollege.ac.uk)

Perth College UHI

[www.perth.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.perth.uhi.ac.uk)

Dundee and Angus College

[www.dundeeandangus.ac.uk](http://www.dundeeandangus.ac.uk)

SRUC

[www.sruc.ac.uk](http://www.sruc.ac.uk)

Glasgow Clyde College

[www.glasgowclyde.ac.uk](http://www.glasgowclyde.ac.uk)

Train Shetland

[www.trainshetland.com](http://www.trainshetland.com)



*Parks and urban green spaces, no matter how small, help cool temperatures, reduce wind speeds and absorb pollution and flood waters. Good management of these areas is essential*



*New pests and diseases are building up defences to old pest management techniques, requiring a new generation of scientists to fight them*



*A job in horticulture supports many other industries, such as agriculture, forestry, engineering and environmental conservation*



## Our Stories



### John Boyd

John did a Modern Apprenticeship through Glasgow Clyde College while at In-Work Enterprise, an organisation which provides mental health sufferers with access to horticulture and landscaping. He is a former winner of Lantra Scotland's horticulture learner of the year award.

*"I get tremendous satisfaction helping and inspiring those with mental health issues through In-Work. Our projects bring so much colour and inspiration to people's lives, giving them purpose and a focus that they otherwise wouldn't have. It is truly inspirational. You can see the big sense of satisfaction people get from taking part in projects, particularly when they see the difference they have made at the end. We are also providing them with useful skills in horticulture which should improve their employability."*

### Jennifer Wright

Jennifer completed a Modern Apprenticeship in Parks, Gardens and Green Spaces with SRUC while working for the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. She is currently training with the Professional Garden Guild Traineeship (PGGT) and was runner-up for the horticulture category in Lantra Scotland's learner of the year awards.

*"I love what I do as I'm surrounded by nature and I couldn't ask for anything else. Every day is different and I am constantly learning and developing. The most satisfying thing is being able to watch seedlings — with the potential to become plants taller than you — growing. You're able to watch their whole lifecycle, so your hard work and care is rewarded with them living and that is amazing to see. I am passionate about this industry and through my blog I'm an ambassador for anyone who is thinking about starting a career in horticulture."*



## Find out more

If you would like more information on training or qualifications, email [scotland@lantra.co.uk](mailto:scotland@lantra.co.uk) or call **01738 310164**.

[www.scotland.lantra.co.uk](http://www.scotland.lantra.co.uk)

[www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk)

[f @lantrascotland](https://www.facebook.com/lantrascotland) [@lantrascotland](https://www.instagram.com/lantrascotland) [@lantrascotland](https://www.tiktok.com/@lantrascotland) [@lantra.scotland](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
[gov.scot](http://gov.scot)

Lantra Scotland is supported by the Scottish Government.