



HCC

How to grow  
your passion  
for gardening  
& horticulture  
into a successful  
new career or  
fulfilling hobby



# Welcome to the HCC

Whether you're a complete beginner or experienced gardener, our flexible, home-study courses will help you gain the skills and qualifications you need, while making it easy to enjoy your learning around work or family commitments.

Established in the 1930s, HCC is an RHS Qualifications Approved Distance Learning Provider and one of the most respected specialist horticultural colleges with some courses endorsed by the Quality License Scheme. Our Complete Gardener and Complete Garden Designer courses are City & Guilds Assured. We've helped thousands of people – of all ages, backgrounds and locations – retrain for a new career they love, gain the skills and qualifications to take their career to the next level, or get the most from their favourite pastime.

Here we explain how it works and introduce our courses. For more information or to enrol, please call us on 01409 220 777, or visit [www.hccollege.co.uk](http://www.hccollege.co.uk). Whatever your gardening and horticulture ambitions we are here to help you achieve them!

Kind regards,



Michael Farr,  
Director of Studies



# How it works

- **Start straight away, learning anywhere and at any time** – Your first set of course materials will be sent to you when you enrol so you can start as soon as you want. You progress through the course at your own pace, enjoying your course when and where you choose, so it's easy to fit your learning around existing job or family commitments or location.
- **Support from your tutor should you need it** – When you have completed a lesson you send it off for your tutor to mark. They will then return it promptly with useful feedback. All our tutors are highly qualified and experienced, and you can call or email your tutor should you need extra help throughout your course. You can also contact our support team 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.
- **Our exceptional course materials** – You will receive comprehensive lessons with sets of questions. Developed by leading horticultural experts, they are informative, enjoyable, clear and include everything you need to complete the course. They allow you to work to the level you choose.
- **Certification** – Upon successful completion of your course you will either be awarded:

The **HCC Certificate**\* which, because of HCC's reputation, can be a useful addition to your CV. This graded HCC Certificate together with your portfolio of coursework can be used as evidence of your achievements. Our courses focus on subjects that have proved of particular interest to our learners. Learners can study to whatever standard they choose, and can concentrate on favourite topics.

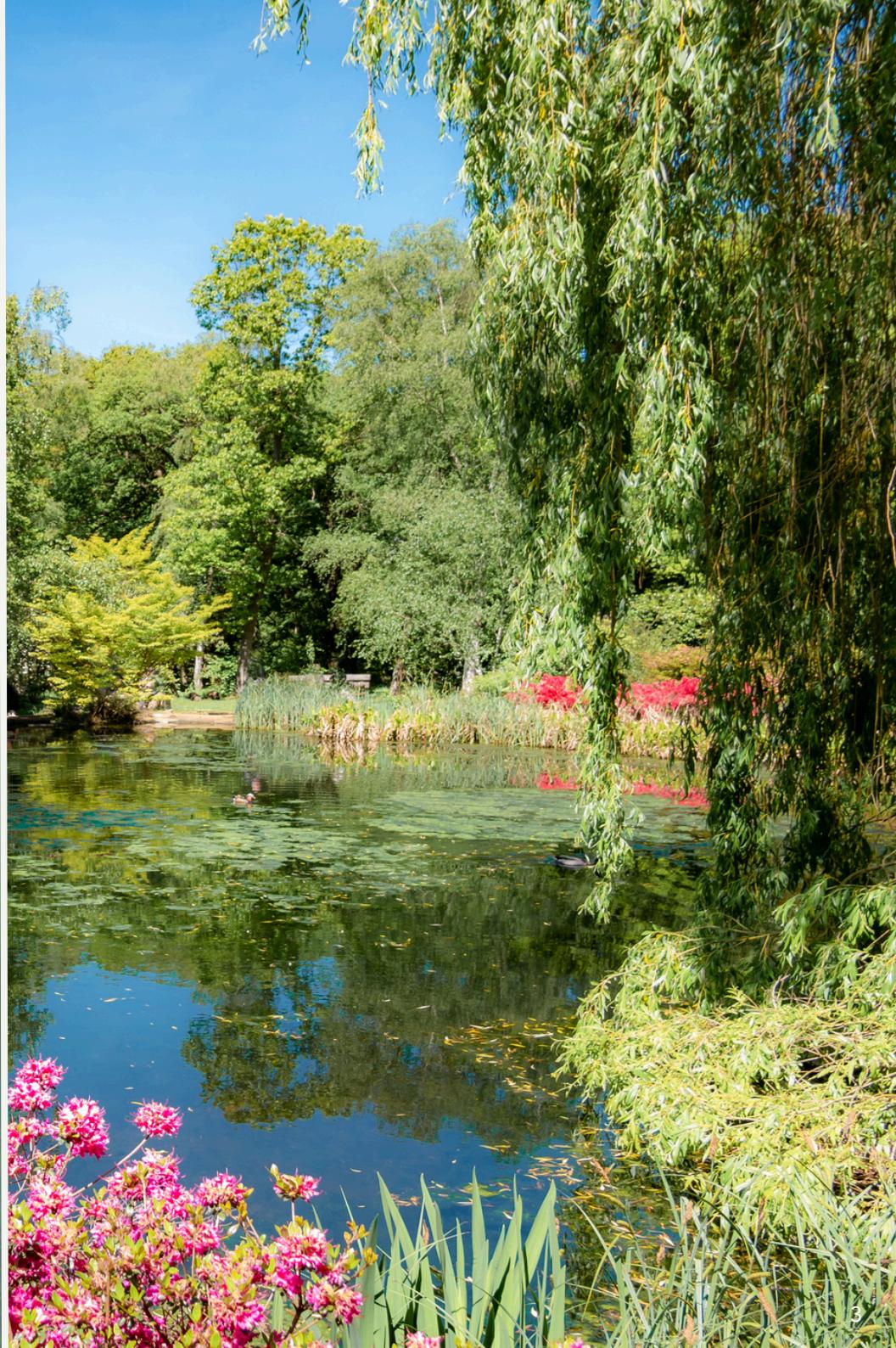
The **QLS Certificate of Achievement** – The Quality Licence Scheme, endorses high-quality, non-regulated provision and training programmes.

The **RQF qualification**\* issued by one of the awarding bodies below. These courses prepare learners for exams or assessment through a portfolio of coursework and follow syllabuses from respected external awarding bodies, including:

- Royal Horticultural Society
- Royal Forestry Society
- City & Guilds
- Quality Licence Scheme

- **Suitable for all** – All our courses are suitable for beginners\* and for both professional and leisure gardeners, unless otherwise stated in the full course description online.

\*Learners taking the ABC Level 2 Certificate in Arboriculture course, or the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) qualifications, do not receive the HCC Certificate as their qualifications are issued by the aforementioned awarding bodies.





# Career courses

## RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Plant Growth and Development\*

RQF Qualification Number: 610/1042/X

This new RHS course is an ideal first step for learners considering a career in horticulture. It's also a great choice for leisure or professional gardeners who want to improve their knowledge, including some essential theory.

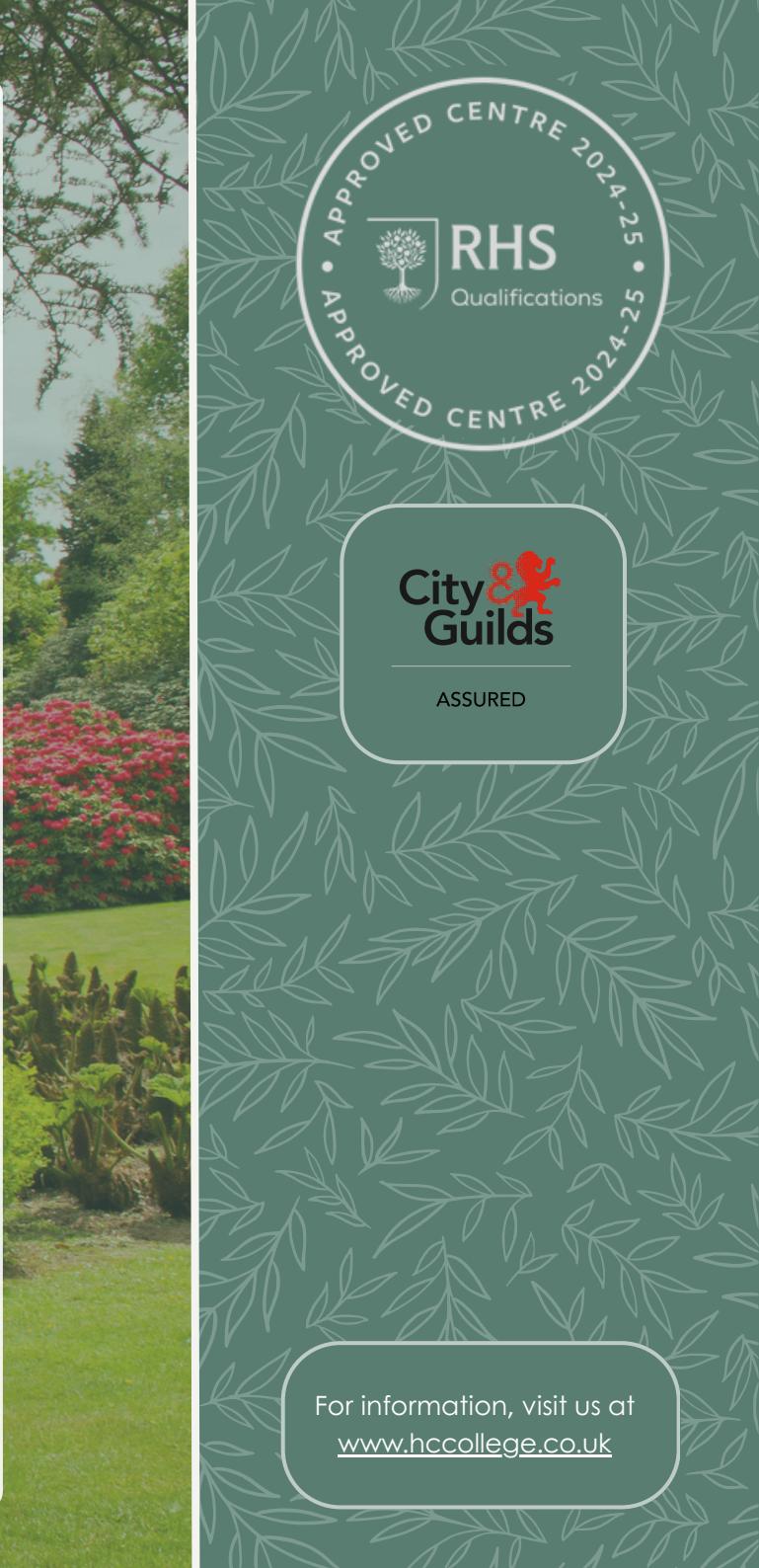
\*When you commence your course, RHS requires you to register with HCC as a candidate for the qualification. HCC administers this process on your behalf. You will receive an invoice for your Learner registration fee of £200.00 which includes registration, assessment and certification. These are due within 30 days of commencing your studies.

### Complete Gardener (City & Guilds Assured)

This course spans over 15 comprehensive, easy to follow lessons; each lesson includes self-learning exercises to help you absorb the information and put your skills into practice. Lesson resources along with the assignments you complete will then also become your own personal reference material for use in future. At the end of each lesson you will complete an assignment which becomes your portfolio of work; there are no examinations for this course.

### Complete Garden Designer (City & Guilds Assured)

This course spans over 10 comprehensive, easy to follow lessons; each lesson includes self-learning exercises to help you absorb the information and put your skills into practice. Lesson resources along with the assignments you complete will then also become your own personal reference material for use in future. At the end of each lesson you will complete an assignment which becomes your portfolio of work; there are no examinations for this course.



**City & Guilds**

ASSURED

For information, visit us at  
[www.hccollege.co.uk](http://www.hccollege.co.uk)

# Gardening courses

## Gardening Studies - Beyond the Basics - 'Pick and Mix' your own selection

Choose 10 out of 32 wide-ranging lessons to 'build your own' customised gardening course – reflecting your personal interests or expanding professional areas of expertise. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## The Principles of Gardening

Popular with 'green' gardeners, this course is a science-based, environmentally-friendly exploration of key gardening topics with an emphasis on organic manures and biological control methods. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Allotment Gardening

Grow your own! Gain the skills and knowledge to find, prepare and maintain a productive, sustainable and well-tended allotment or large vegetable plot. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Leisure Gardening

A 'gentle' introduction to popular gardening themes – ideal if you want a course that improves your gardening knowledge and confidence without being too demanding in terms of content or time. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Organic Gardening

Learn to garden without artificial chemicals. This course brings together aspects of modern gardening which mesh with organic principles, to make this way of gardening as feasible as possible. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Start Gardening - The Basics and Beyond

This thorough introduction to key gardening principles and techniques will ensure you get a good handle on a huge subject. Perfect for enthusiastic gardeners keen to progress. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Enjoy Herbs

Explore the fascinating world of herbs! You will learn how to identify, grow, harvest and preserve them and about their different uses, as well as studying the major herb groups in detail. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Advanced HCC Course in Plant Growth

This advanced study programme is ideal if you are looking to expand your knowledge of plant growth – whether you wish to pursue a horticultural career or are already working in this field. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3. There are no formal examinations to sit for this course.

# Gardening courses

## 'Crop Tech' – an Approach to the Technology of Commercial / Professional Crop Production

This comprehensive course includes extensive coverage of fruit production. It is ideal for learners involved in commercial growing or horticultural cropping, or for those who wish to gain an understanding of these techniques for general interest and study. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Garden Centre

Ambitions to work in, manage or set up a garden centre? This course will help you combine your passion for plants with the commercial skills to run a successful garden centre. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

*"I carefully considered my options and chose to enrol with HCC because my research showed they are long established and have a good reputation. I greatly enjoyed the course and I'd highly recommend it."*

*Brandon George*



*Call our advisors today on*

**01409 220 777**

*or visit our website*

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# Gardening courses

## Garden Landscape and Design Drawing (G.L.A.D.D)

Learn to draw up your garden designs to a professional level. This course aims to encourage your artistic and design ability and help develop your own style. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Introduction to Garden Design

Whether you want garden design skills to use on your own or friends' gardens or intend to pursue a career as a professional garden designer, this course will give you an excellent foundation in the subject. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Garden Planting and Layout

With an emphasis on planting design and soft landscaping (i.e. using plants), this course gives garden designers the knowledge to transform a design plan into a beautiful garden. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Beautiful Gardens

Learn how to use good planting design to make the most of each season – and ensure a garden looks spectacular all year round. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Garden Landscape Construction

Complement your horticultural and planting design knowledge with this exploration of the practical construction aspects of garden design e.g. groundworks and hardscaping. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Japanese Garden Design

Fans of these uniquely beautiful, elegant gardens can learn the history and philosophies of Japanese garden design before moving on to the practical creation of such a garden. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Interior Landscaping

Become part of a fast-growing industry. This course will give you the knowledge to design, install and maintain plants in enclosed spaces like offices, hotels and shopping centres. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Advanced HCC Course in Garden Planning

This course of study is aimed at the advanced learner and is particularly suited to those wishing to start a career in horticulture or who may already be working in the industry. Discover the principles and history of garden design as well as the practical aspects of garden planning – without any need to sit formal examinations. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

For information, visit us at  
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# Floristry courses

## An Introduction to Professional Floristry

Turn your love of flowers into a viable business. This course equips you with the floristry knowledge and business skills needed to start your own florist shop. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 2.

## An Introduction to Botanical Illustration

Learn to capture the beauty of a plant. This course will give you the skills to create beautiful and accurate botanical drawings and watercolour paintings. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 2.



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# Arboriculture courses      Forestry courses

## ABC Level 2 Certificate in Arboriculture (in partnership with the RFS)\*

Explore subjects including the principles of tree surgery and physiology, and the planting and aftercare of woody plants. Your coursework will be assessed for the ABC qualification\* endorsed by the Royal Forestry Society.

\*NOT AVAILABLE AFTER 2026

## The HCC Certificate in Arboriculture

A comprehensive arboriculture course that covers a wide range of subjects in some detail – from soil science and carrying out surveys to tree ill health and amenity woodland. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate in Arboriculture Studies and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 2.

## The HCC Diploma in Arboriculture

This course provides an in-depth knowledge of trees, with topics such as nursery practices, plant pathology, woodland design, ecology and legislation. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Diploma and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

\*ABC fee should be paid when you enrol on the course, but no later than 30 days after your enrolment date. See fee list for details. \* The ABC Level 2 Certificate in Arboriculture follows the ABC/RFS syllabus. Assessment is through a portfolio of completed coursework.

## Certificate in Forestry at QLS Level 2



Explore subjects including selecting trees for planting, the biology of woody plants and the introduction to practical silviculture and habitat management. This course has been prepared by The Horticultural Correspondence College and RFS in order to meet specific learners' and/or employers' requirements which cannot be satisfied through current regulated qualifications.

*"I've always been fascinated by trees so it made sense to enrol with HCC. The courses are easy to follow so I never needed to ask my tutor for advice, yet it's nice to know they were there if I ever did. I liked that my assignments were personally marked by my tutor, with lots of constructive feedback which helped me understand the subjects even more. Thanks to HCC, I've gained prestigious qualifications and am following my lifelong passion by starting my own tree business."*

Steven from Middlesbrough

# Farming courses

## Mixed Farming

This course gives a thorough grounding in the principles and practices of mixed livestock and crop production, a particularly sustainable form of farming. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Organic Arable Farming

Gain a knowledge of arable farming using organic techniques, focusing on soil and nutrients and topics such as crop rotation and weed, pest and disease management. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Organic Livestock Farming

Learn the principles and techniques of organic livestock farming – an approach to animal production which benefits the environment, animal welfare, human health and farm economics. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Tropical Agriculture

This course looks at efficient and environmentally sustainable crop and livestock farming practices suited to tropical areas – knowledge that could help reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.

## Sheep Farming

A course that provides an excellent basic knowledge of sheep biology and husbandry, enabling you to manage your flock more effectively and productively. On successful completion you will receive an HCC Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement at QLS Level 3.



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## Get in touch

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