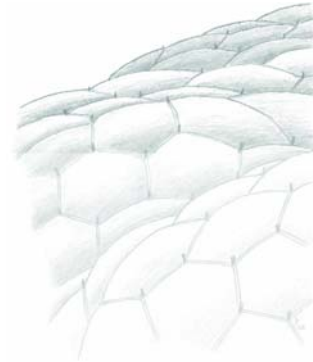


Royal  
Botanic Garden  
Edinburgh

**eden project**



## **The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh/Eden Project Certificate in Practical Horticulture**

The Eden Horticultural Team, in partnership with the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), is offering a programme of eight one-day practical gardening courses at the Eden Project sites.

The courses on offer within the RBGE Certificate in Practical Horticulture (CPH) can be enjoyed one-by-one or as a complete course, and are ideal for anyone who wants to hone key gardening skills. Whether you're a keen amateur, beginning a career in horticulture or thinking of a career change, this is a great chance to develop your practical gardening ability.

Completion of all eight courses allows progression to a review day and assessment day. Assessment and verification guidelines administered by both Eden and RBGE ensure that the qualification is standardised. The CPH was first developed by RBGE in 2006. Since 2008, the Eden Project has helped deliver the same programme, with the two institutions collaborating on the creation of course materials, programme delivery and overall quality. We believe the partnership is a perfect match – the Eden Project's vision of contemporary horticulture and education, combined with RBGE's botanical and horticultural history. For the Edinburgh programme see [http://www.rbge.org.uk/education/professional-courses/practical-certificate-in-horticulture?searchzed=CPH&advsearch=exactphrase&highlight=ajaxSearch\\_highlight+ajaxSearch\\_highlight1](http://www.rbge.org.uk/education/professional-courses/practical-certificate-in-horticulture?searchzed=CPH&advsearch=exactphrase&highlight=ajaxSearch_highlight+ajaxSearch_highlight1)

Delivery of the CPH at the Eden Project will either be behind the scenes at Watering Lane Nursery or at the main Eden Project site, based in our educational building, The Core.

## Course schedule 2011 – 2012

\* WLN = Watering Lane Nursery

What	When	Where	Cost
Understanding Plants	Saturday 10 Sept 2011	Eden	£50
Plant Health Problems	Saturday 8 Oct 2011	Eden	£50
Planting and Establishment	Saturday 29 Oct 2011	WLN	£50
Growing Media and Potting	Saturday 19 Nov 2011	WLN	£50
Established Plant Maintenance	Saturday 3 Dec 2011	Eden	£50
Soils and Composting	Saturday 14 Jan 2012	WLN	£50
Seed Propagation	Saturday 4 Feb 2012	WLN	£50
Vegetative Propagation	Saturday 17 March 2012	WLN	£50
Review Day	Friday 15 June 2012	WLN	£50
Assessment Day	Saturday 16 June 2012	WLN	£50

### Course Costs:

For people who book all ten courses as a block they will receive a 10% discount. A block booking will include an Eden Project Annual Pass, providing free entry for a year. Cancellation of a course can occur up to one week prior to the start date. A refund of 80% will be provided (20% is deducted for administration fees). Any later, and no refund will be issued.

### Course Structure:

Each course is structured around a similar format, as follows:

- 10.00 am – 4.30 pm
- A morning session comprising theory supported by slides, plus demonstrations of relevant practical techniques
- An afternoon session for all students to learn and practice horticultural skills.

There is a good student to staff ratio for each course. Eden Project Horticulturalists teach and assist throughout the nine-month programme.

The content of each course is specific to what can be covered appropriately in one day. The courses are offered in the order to match the growing season. The emphasis is on development of practical skills, with the intent that each student will hone their skills through the growing year.

## **Course content:**

**Understanding Plants (CPH01):** focuses on a basic botanical understanding of the Plant Kingdom. Recognising that plants have adapted to specific habitats and have corresponding lifecycles and strategies to survive will be highlighted. The basic history and naming of plants will be covered, combined with recognition of key structural parts of plants, and their functions.

There will be emphasis on walking around the site and looking at specific plants and their adaptation to climate and habitat, along with their physical structure. Examining plants in the classroom will involve basic dissection and identification of parts and their purpose. Throughout, all activities will be taught with a relevance to practical gardening.

**Plant Health Problems (CPH08):** emphasises how to diagnose a plant health problem, from shoot tip to roots. A broad understanding of the main groups of pests, diseases, weeds and physiological disorders will be shown, and an appreciation of the main control strategies will be provided.

Practical skills and activities will include diagnosis of afflicted plants, identification and cause of damage to the plant, along with control strategies to reduce or eliminate damage.

**Planting and Establishment (CPH06):** will provide an understanding in the planting and establishment of plants in soil. Size and types of commercially grown plants will be discussed, as will soil conditions, including structure and fertility. The range of tools (and their care) will be demonstrated for soil preparation and planting, along with the use of tree supports. Establishment will be emphasised, with regards to shelter, animal protection and environmental considerations. The role and use of different mulches will also be shown.

**Growing Media and Potting (CPH05):** will focus on the principles and methods of establishing plants in containers. The mixing of growing media and properties of different soil media will be demonstrated along with the use of different types and sizes of containers. Types of fertilizers and application rates will be considered, along with irrigation systems for containerised plants.

**Established Plant Maintenance (CPH07):** involves the principles and practices of longer-term plant maintenance. Plant division, pruning and training will be shown. Promotion of flower and fruit will be demonstrated, along with tool choice, care and maintenance. Different methods of training young plants will be shown, including tying and supporting.

**Soils and Composting (CPH02):** will cover the basic understanding of soil cultivation techniques, principles of composting, basic soil analysis and the general properties of

soil and composts. Potential problems of soils will be addressed, including poor structure and nutrient deficiencies. Soil analysis techniques will be shown, and the range of materials that can be composted will be demonstrated. Application rates and uses of organic materials, including green waste compost, will be shown.

**Seed Propagation (CPH03):** will cover the principles and practices of growing plants from seed. Seeds will be sown both in containers and outdoors. Preparation of both seed trays and seed beds will be shown. Other components of this course will cover seed collection, cleaning and storage, seed dormancy and viability, differing methods of seed sowing and irrigation requirements. Appropriate use and care of tools will also be shown.

**Vegetative Propagation (CPH04):** emphasises the propagation of a range of species using a series of distinct methods. Reasons for cutting, division, layering and grafting will be discussed and demonstrated. Collection and growing of propagation material will be shown, along with types of rooting media and the correct type and use of tools. Aftercare, including heating and protected cultivation environments, will be demonstrated.

**Booking:** Places are limited to 20 students per course. Payment is required at time of booking. For more information or to book your place, please contact Patricia Darby on [pdarby@edenproject.com](mailto:pdarby@edenproject.com) or 01726 818 762.