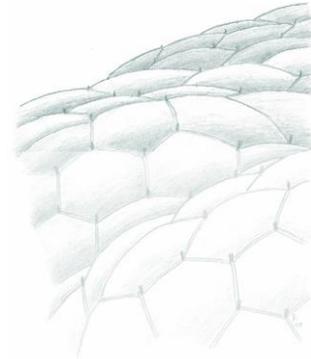


Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh

eden project



"The course provided a great foundation for someone like myself looking to undertake a career change into horticulture, and gave me the inspiration and confidence to further develop my horticultural skills after the course. The accessibility, enthusiasm and knowledge of the Eden team is key to the course's success" – Stephen (graduate 2011)

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. The result is that the course can be undertaken at both venues - see <http://www.rbge.org.uk/education/professional-courses/practical-certificate-in-horticulture>. 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.

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 2016 – 2017

What	When	Where	Cost
Understanding plants	Saturday 3 Sept 2016	Eden	£50
Feeding and watering	Saturday 24 Sept 2016	Nursery	£50
Soils and composting	Saturday 15 Oct 2016	Nursery	£50
Planting and establishment	Saturday 5 Nov 2016	Nursery	£50
Pruning and training	Saturday 26 Nov 2016	Eden	£50
Vegetative propagation	Saturday 4 Mar 2017	Nursery	£50
Growing media and potting	Saturday 25 Mar 2017	Nursery	£50
Seed propagation	Saturday 15 Apr 2017	Nursery	£50
Review day	Friday 2 June 2017	Nursery	£50
Assessment day	Saturday 3 June 2017	Nursery	£50

Course Costs:

For people who book all ten courses (including the Review and Assessment days) 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 theory session supported by slides, plus demonstrations of relevant practical techniques, followed by a hands-on session for all students to learn and practice horticultural skills.

Each course is taught by an Eden Project Horticulturist with support from additional Horticulturists. Different staff teach and assist throughout the programme.

The content of each course is specific to what can be covered appropriately in one day. The emphasis is on development of practical skills, with the intent that each student will hone their skills through the growing year. It is believed our practical emphasis is unique in this type of course. Sustainable techniques, materials and pest and disease control methods underpin the entire programme.

Course content:

Understanding Plants: 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.

Feeding and Watering: Watering is an undervalued skill, yet is vital to every part of the growing cycle. In this unit students will learn how to assess the watering needs of plants, the implications of getting it wrong, and learn how to apply water and different types of fertilizer to plants accurately and successfully to plants in the ground as well as in containers.

Soils and Composting : 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.

Planting and Establishment : 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 the correct use of tree support systems. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of favourable planting conditions, and correct procedures for planting will be demonstrated. Techniques for successful establishment will be explained, with the role of mulches and pest protection highlighted.

Pruning and Training: involves the principles and practices of longer-term plant maintenance. The importance of mulching will be discussed, along with the reasoning behind pruning for health, and pruning to promote different types of growth. Correct tool choice and maintenance will be covered, and plant training techniques demonstrated.

Seed Propagation: 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. .

Growing Media and Potting: 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. Techniques for potting on plants of varying sizes will be shown.

Vegetative Propagation: emphasises the propagation of a range of plants using a series of distinct methods. Reasons for cutting, division and layering will be discussed and demonstrated. Collection and preparation 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 discussed.

Booking: Places are limited to 20 students per course. Payment is required at time of booking. You can book individual courses online via the website:

<http://www.edenproject.com/horticulture-certificate>

To book all 10 and get a discount, or to claim your Member's discount on individual courses, please email boxoffice@edenproject.com or telephone 01726 811911.

Other information:

Clothing: As a practical gardening programme, outdoor activities will be taught in all weathers. At all times make sure you bring appropriate clothing to match the weather and season, also protective footwear.

Food: We will provide complimentary tea/coffee and biscuits in the morning and afternoon. At the Eden Project, lunch can be bought from a number of on-site cafes and restaurants, or you can bring your own. You will need to bring your own lunch when at Watering Lane Nursery.

Course completion: If you have completed all eight courses, a review day is available, and a final day of assessment is required for you to gain your Practical Certificate. Having completed and passed the programme, you will receive the jointly badged Certificate in Practical Horticulture.