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

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 2017 – 2018**

* WLN = Watering Lane Nursery near Pentewan

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>When</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understanding Plants</td>
<td>Saturday 9 Sept 2017</td>
<td>Eden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feeding and Watering</td>
<td>Saturday 23 Sept 2017</td>
<td>WLN</td>
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<td>Soils and Composting</td>
<td>Saturday 14 Oct 2017</td>
<td>WLN</td>
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<td>Planting and Establishment</td>
<td>Saturday 4 Nov 2017</td>
<td>WLN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pruning and Training</td>
<td>Saturday 25 Nov 2017</td>
<td>Eden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetative Propagation</td>
<td>Saturday 3 March 2018</td>
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<td>Growing Media and Potting</td>
<td>Saturday 24 March 2018</td>
<td>WLN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seed Propagation</td>
<td>Saturday 21 April 2018</td>
<td>WLN</td>
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<td>Review Day</td>
<td>Saturday 16 June 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment Day</td>
<td>Saturday 23 June 2018</td>
<td>WLN</td>
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**Course Costs**

At present we are only offering the option to book onto the course as a whole. The course requires 15 people to run with a maximum of 20 places. Should we have fewer than 20 people booked onto the course, we will then open up individual modules for booking at a cost of £50 per module. A waiting list will be in operation; if you would like to be added to the waiting list for a particular module, please email Emma Pearce on epearce@edenproject.com.

If you book the whole course you are also entitled to an Annual Pass to enable access to Eden’s huge range of plants.

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’s skilled and experienced horticulturists teach and assist throughout the ten-month programme.

The content of each course is specific to what can be covered appropriately in one day. The courses are offered in an order that matches 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:** 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. Cuttings, 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 protected cultivation environments, will be discussed.

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 go to our website (http://www.edenproject.com/learn/for-everyone/certificate-in-practical-horticulture) or phone our Box Office on 01726 811911.