



# Ansford Academy

**Practical Horticulture Skills**

**Curriculum Booklet for 2024 - 2025**

**Subject Lead: Alyson Evans**

## Curriculum Intent:

Ansford Academy is situated in rural Somerset and many of our learners come from a farming or land-based working background. This vocational course enables learners to get started in the Horticulture industry themselves. It enables our students to focus on the fundamental practical skills in horticulture:

- Planting out
- Preparing ground
- Pruning
- Using a mower
- Maintaining turf
- Constructing a path

This course enables our students to achieve an Award, Certificate or Diploma in Practical Horticultural Skills, which can help them start their own career as a:

- Gardener
- Greenkeeper
- Groundsperson
- Garden centre worker

After completing these qualifications students can move onto a related Level 2/3 qualification or start an Apprenticeship.

## Practical Horticulture Curriculum Implementation:

As the name suggests, This is a practical, hands-on course. There is no final written exam. Instead, students are assessed regularly on their understanding and ability to complete units as specified by City & Guilds.

Students are taught in mixed gender and mixed ability groups and spend the majority of their time outdoors. At the start of term each student is allocated a plot of land 3m x 5m to prepare, care for, plant up & harvest. Students decide themselves what they want to plant - within the limitations of budget, space and climate. They are supported in looking after their crops before harvesting and taking home their vegetables at the end of the school year, in July.

In Year 11, students learn a variety of different skills they can apply to other areas of Horticulture. For example, how to care for tools correctly, using water based preservatives on outdoor wooden structures, how to aerate soil and why we need to. On occasions we work indoors and cover other aspects of the course like potting up rooted cuttings, how to propagate plants from cuttings, how to test pH values in soil, and plenty more.

At the end of each unit students demonstrate their understanding and ability both practically and verbally. Photographs are taken and these will form part of their portfolio of evidence, which is submitted to City & Guilds at the end of Year 11.

Assessment is on the completion of each unit and is either 'pass' or 'not yet achieved'. There are 3 levels of awards the students can achieve. This is dependent on the number of units they have successfully passed:

- Level 1 Award in Practical Horticulture Skills
- Level 1 Certificate in Practical Horticulture Skills
- Level 1 Diploma in Practical Horticulture skills.

The vast majority of students achieve the full diploma by the end of Year 11.

**Curriculum Time:**

	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>
<b>Lessons per fortnight</b>	na	na	na	5	5

**Year 10 Horticulture Programme of Study**  
**Exam Board: City & Guilds**  
**Exam Specification: Level 1 (7573-11)**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Curriculum Foci</b>	<b>Formal Assessment</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Prepare ground for sowing or planting under supervision</b>            Assessment Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● State the steps to prepare the ground</li> <li>● Identify that can occur if tilth is too coarse or too fine.</li> <li>● State the reasons for correct consolidation of soil</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unit 101</b></p> <p><b>Time:</b> 6 hours  <b>Marks:</b> 3 points</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Plant Container Grown Subjects</b>            Assessment criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● State reasons for removing damaged material before planting</li> <li>● State conditions when planting should not take place</li> <li>● State the problems that can occur when plants are planted incorrectly</li> <li>● State the reasons for firming in after planting</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unit 102</b></p> <p><b>Time:</b> 2 hours  <b>Marks:</b> 3 points</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Prepare solid and apply organic mulch</b>            Assessment criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● State reasons for applying mulch</li> <li>● Understand soil conditions when mulching should not take place</li> <li>● Identify suitable mulch materials</li> <li>● Prepare soil correctly</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unit 103</b></p> <p><b>Time:</b> 4 hours  <b>Marks:</b> 3 points</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Water an area of plants</b>            Assessment criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify when plants need to be watered</li> <li>● Understand the problems that can occur if over watering</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unit 104</b>  <b>Time:</b> 1 hour  <b>Marks:</b> 3 points</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Determine soil pH using a test kit</b>            Assessment criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify &amp; record soil pH</li> <li>● Understand how to use this information</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unit 107</b></p> <p><b>Time:</b> 2 hours  <b>Marks:</b> 2 points</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Sow outdoors in drills by hand</b>            Assessment criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prepare tilth and set out taught line</li> <li>● Draw out shallow drill suitable for seed size.</li> <li>● Sow seeds using appropriate spacing</li> <li>● Label the drill correctly</li> <li>● Leave site tidy &amp; store tools</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unit 122</b></p> <p><b>Time:</b> 4 hours  <b>Marks:</b> 2 points</p>

**Year 11 Practical Horticulture Skills**  
**Exam Board: City & Guilds**  
**Exam Specification: Level 1 (7573-11)**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Curriculum Foci</b>	<b>Formal Assessment</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Topic Name - Identify TRees</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bullet points summary of knowledge and skills covered</li> <li>● Bullet points summary of knowledge and skills covered</li> <li>● Bullet points summary of knowledge and skills covered</li> <li>● Bullet points summary of knowledge and skills covered</li> <li>● Bullet points summary of knowledge and skills covered</li> <li>● Bullet points summary of knowledge and skills covered</li> </ul>	<b>Unit 150</b> <b>Time:</b> 6 hours + <b>Marks:</b> 2 points
<b>2</b>	<b>Sow indoors in containers</b> Assessment criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sow seeds in a variety of containers</li> <li>● Understand how to label correctly</li> <li>● Care for seeds until germination.</li> </ul>	<b>Unit 123</b> <b>Time:</b> 2 hours <b>Marks:</b> 2 points
<b>3</b>	<b>Potting up rooted cuttings.</b> Assessment criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Carry out tasks involved carefully</li> <li>● Select correct tools &amp; equipment</li> <li>● Dispose of waste correctly</li> </ul>	<b>Unit 126</b> <b>Time:</b> 4 hours <b>Marks:</b> 2 points
<b>4</b>	<b>Maintain wooden structures with water based preservative</b> Assessment criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prepare and clean area to be treated</li> <li>● Mark out area with suitable signage</li> <li>● Apply preservative correctly</li> <li>● Clear away and leave site tidy</li> <li>● Clean tools and return to store</li> </ul>	<b>Unit 129</b> <b>Time:</b> 9 hours <b>Marks:</b> 2 points
<b>5</b>	<b>Aerate turf by hand</b> Assessment criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● State the task involved</li> <li>● Select appropriate PPe</li> <li>● Carry out activities</li> <li>● Dispose of waste in accordance with H&amp;S guidance</li> <li>● Leave site tidy</li> </ul>	<b>Unit 134</b> <b>Time:</b> 2 hours <b>Marks:</b> 2 points
<b>6</b>	<b>Use a wheeled rotary mower</b> Assessment criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prepare machine for use</li> <li>● Carry out H&amp;S checks</li> <li>● Set the height of cut</li> <li>● Mow a minimum of 50sq metres</li> <li>● Clean machine using manufacturers recommendations.</li> </ul>	<b>Unit 144</b> <b>Time:</b> 2 hours <b>Marks:</b> 2 points

### Additional Practical Horticulture Skills assessments:

Due to the nature of the course, some assessments can be completed in either Year 10 or Year 11. This is generally dependent on weather conditions.

<b>Curriculum Foci</b>	<b>Formal Assessment</b>
<b>Plant bulbs for naturalisation</b> Assessment criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Identify suitable planting area</li><li>● Identify suitable bulbs</li><li>● Plant bulbs carefully at the correct depth &amp; spacing</li><li>● Clear site and dispose of waste</li></ul>	<b>Unit 108</b> <b>Time:</b> 6 hours + <b>Marks:</b> 2 points
<b>Propagate by stem cutting</b> Assessment criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Select suitable plant materials</li><li>● Remove anything dead, diseased or dying</li><li>● Take cuttings appropriately</li><li>● Plant cuttings at the correct depth and consolidate soil.</li><li>● Water cuttings from the base</li><li>● Label correctly</li></ul>	<b>Unit 125</b> <b>Time:</b> 2 hours <b>Marks:</b> 2 points
<b>Use a nylon cord strimmer</b> Assessment criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Select appropriate PPE</li><li>● Select correct tools &amp; equipment</li><li>● Complete task correctly</li><li>● Dispose of waste.</li><li>● Clean tools and return to store</li></ul>	<b>Unit 145</b> <b>Time:</b> 2 hours <b>Marks:</b> 2 points
<b>Identify trees</b> Assessment criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Identify 15 trees native to the UK</li></ul>	<b>Unit 150</b> <b>Time:</b> 4 hours <b>Marks:</b> 2 points
<b>Identify weeds</b> Assessment criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Identify a minimum of 15 common UK weeds</li></ul>	<b>Unit 151</b> <b>Time:</b> 4 hours <b>Marks:</b> 2 points
<b>Identify indoor plants</b> Assessment criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Identify a minimum of 15 indoor/houseplants</li></ul>	<b>Unit 152</b> <b>Time:</b> 4 hours <b>Marks:</b> 2 points

In addition - there is a range of other units that can be chosen from if students are interested.