RHS Certificate in Horticulture: Foundations & Practices

1 – 5 March 2027
Rome (Italy)



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Why This Course

Horticulture is the foundation of successful gardening, plant care, landscape maintenance, and professional growing practices. A strong understanding of plant science, soil management, propagation, plant health, and garden planning helps participants care for plants more effectively and create healthy, attractive, and sustainable outdoor spaces.

This intensive 1-week Horticulture Fundamentals Training program provides a practical introduction to essential horticultural principles and techniques. Aligned with RHS-style learning standards, the course covers plant biology, classification, soil science, nutrition, propagation, cultivation, pest and disease management, garden design, and seasonal maintenance. Through practical exercises and applied learning, participants will gain the confidence to grow, maintain, and manage plants successfully.

What You'll Learn and Practice

By joining this program, you will:

- Understand fundamental principles of horticulture and plant science.
- Identify basic plant classification and nomenclature.
- Understand plant anatomy, physiology, photosynthesis, and growth processes.
- Analyze soil composition, structure, pH, and nutrient availability.
- Apply soil improvement, composting, and plant nutrition techniques.
- Use seed sowing and vegetative propagation methods.
- Apply potting, transplanting, pruning, and plant training techniques.
- Identify common plant pests, diseases, weeds, and disorders.
- Use Integrated Pest Management practices for plant protection.
- Understand environmental stress factors affecting plant health.
- Apply garden design principles and plant selection techniques.
- Plan seasonal garden maintenance tasks with confidence.



The Program Flow

Day 1: Introduction to Horticulture and Plant Science

- Understand key horticultural principles and practices.
- Explore plant classification and nomenclature.
- Learn the basics of plant anatomy and physiology.
- Understand photosynthesis and how plants grow.
- Connect plant science knowledge with practical horticultural care.

Day 2: Soil Science and Plant Nutrition

- Understand soil composition, texture, and structure.
- Analyze soil pH and its effect on nutrient availability.
- Explore the role of organic matter in healthy soil.
- Apply composting methods to improve soil quality.
- Understand fertilizers and plant nutrition requirements.

Day 3: Plant Propagation and Cultivation

- Apply seed sowing techniques for different plant types.
- Use vegetative propagation methods such as cuttings and division.
- Practice potting and transplanting techniques.
- Understand pruning principles and plant training methods.
- Improve plant establishment and growth through proper cultivation practices.

Day 4: Plant Health and Protection

- Identify common plant pests and diseases.
- Apply Integrated Pest Management principles.
- Recognize common weeds and apply suitable control methods.
- Identify plant disorders caused by environmental stress.
- Develop practical approaches for maintaining healthy plants.

Day 5: Garden Planning and Maintenance

- Understand the principles of garden design.
- Create planting schemes based on plant needs and visual impact.
- Select suitable plants for different garden conditions.
- Apply lawn care and maintenance techniques.
- Plan seasonal garden tasks for year-round plant care.



Individual Impact

- Build confidence in caring for plants and managing gardens.
- Strengthen understanding of plant biology, soil, nutrition, and propagation.
- Improve practical skills in pruning, transplanting, pest control, and maintenance.
- Gain the ability to identify and respond to common plant health issues.
- Develop a stronger foundation for further horticultural study or professional practice.

Work Impact

- Improve plant health, garden quality, and maintenance outcomes.
- Support more effective soil management and sustainable plant care.
- Reduce plant losses through better pest, disease, and stress management.
- Enhance garden planning and planting decisions.
- Strengthen practical horticultural capability for gardens, nurseries, landscapes, and green spaces.

Training Methodology

This program combines horticultural knowledge with practical application through:

- Plant science and classification exercises.
- Soil assessment, composting, and nutrition activities.
- Seed sowing and propagation practice.
- Potting, transplanting, pruning, and cultivation exercises.
- Pest, disease, weed, and plant disorder identification activities.
- Garden planning, planting scheme, and maintenance workshops.

Beyond the Course

Upon completion, participants will be able to:

- Create and maintain healthy gardens with greater confidence.
- Propagate plants successfully using seed and vegetative methods.
- Improve soil health and apply appropriate plant nutrition practices.
- Identify and manage common plant pests, diseases, weeds, and disorders.
- Design attractive and functional garden spaces.
- Plan seasonal maintenance tasks for long-term garden success.

