



Specialised Horticulture Certificate

Course Guide



Specialised Horticultural Certificate

Turn your dream for a career in horticulture and farming into a reality

Consider yourself an outdoor person that wouldn't be caught in an office job or at an office desk?

Reap the rewards of what you sow and understand the benefits of what working on the land can bring you.

This course has everything you need to know about the field of horticulture, allowing you to enter the industry, run your own produce farm, set up a horticultural business, work in management or deepen your knowledge of the horticulture and agriculture industries.

The course is structured in a way that will build your foundation knowledge in horticulture before drilling into specific areas and aspects of crop production which are tailored to your needs and interests.

This comprehensive course will give you a head start in the industry with specialised knowledge to give you a broader understanding of what career path you want to take when you complete this course.

Perfect for people looking for a comprehensive horticultural course and are passionate about growing plants and produce.





About us

Careers Collectiv is about practical education with a focus on providing courses relevant to real life.

We help you gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to try a new career path, broaden your professional development, start a new business or explore a passion and deepen your understanding in a special interest.

Careers Collectiv was founded by a family who are passionate about providing quality education, accessibility for everyone and the flexibility to work at your own pace and in your own time. They have over a decade of experience in the online education sector after establishing a college specialising in the beauty industry.

Our teachers

We only use teachers who are active in their specialised industry. Learn from people who have first-hand experience in their subject matter and current industry expertise. Staff come from varied backgrounds with teaching and vocational experience from universities and vocational colleges.

Courses provide flexible options for different career pathways, self-improvement, professional development and general adult education.

We give our students the skills, tools and structure to learn in real life situations without compromising on academic excellence.



Recognition



All Careers Collectiv courses come with a certificate of attainment upon completion. This certificate is recognised by the Australian Institute of Horticulture Inc.

Our courses are accredited with the International Approval and Registration Centre (IARC), a non-profit association providing a quality control system for education programs and courses in international education.



Specialised Horticultural Certificate

Harvest your potential with a career specialising in the horticultural sector

This course provides a comprehensive education in crop growing and covers a huge amount of ground to develop your understanding of growing crops. Learn about different types of crop systems, how to establish and nurture crops, and techniques used in traditional and organic growing systems.

Then choose a specialist area of expertise and gain an in depth understanding of all aspects of a speciality. This helps you target your learning and build relevant knowledge in the field you want to work in.

Who is the course for?

This course is designed for students with no previous experience in horticulture or hobby farmers looking to develop their skills and knowledge of crop production and produce. It's perfect for anyone who is passionate about growing their own food, want to further their skills and open their career opportunities in the horticultural sector.



4 modules



700 hours

This course has 3 main core modules

- Outdoor Crop Production
 - Protected Plant Production
 - Permaculture Systems
- + 1 free elective module of your choice is included as a part of this course
- + Optional modules for an additional fee





Learn from experts in their field who guide you to see, do, think and experience learning on your own terms and at your own pace.

A well rounded learning experience

The Specialised Horticultural Certificate gives you a broad education in the skills, industry practices and knowledge expected in a professional working in the horticultural sector.

Not only will you receive a strong foundation in outdoor and protected commercial crop production, you will also learn about organic permaculture systems in an intensive introductory module.

You then have the opportunity to decide a speciality elective to study and gain knowledge in a specific area of the industry. This in-depth information adds value as it's usually only learnt when working on the job.

Assignments

Each lesson in your course modules culminate in an assignment which is submitted online, marked by the school's tutors and returned to you with suggestions and feedback.

Career prospects

This course opens up different opportunities in crop production and horticulture.

Where could you work?

- In a production nursery
- As a crop grower
- Greenhouse worker
- On a farm
- In an orchard
- At a farm supplier
- In crop processing
- Horticultural marketing, education and media
- In urban farming
- Permaculture designer

Course modules

Outdoor Crop Production

1 Crop Production Systems

- Application of different cropping systems for crop production

2 Organic Crop Production

- Organic plant production
- Fulfilling requirements to achieve organic certification in different countries

3 Soils and Nutrition

- Function of soils
- Plant nutrition in outdoor cropping systems

4 Nursery Stock Production

- Commercial production of nursery stock

5 Tree Fruit Production

- Commercial production of tree fruit crops

6 Soft Fruits Production

- Techniques used to produce soft fruits

7 Vegetable Production

- Techniques used to grow vegetables

8 Cut Flower Production

- Commercial production of cut flowers

9 Herbs, Nuts and Miscellaneous Crops

- Commercial production of herbs, nuts and other miscellaneous crops

10 Crop Production Risk Assessment

- Risks that may occur in crop production

Protected Plant Production

1 Structures or Protected Cropping

2 Environmental Control

3 Cladding Materials and their Properties

4 Irrigation

5 Nursery Nutrition

6 Relationship Between Production Techniques and Horticultural Practices

7 Horticultural Management in a Greenhouse: Pests and Diseases

8 Harvest and Post Harvest Technology

9 Greenhouse Plants

10 Risk Assessment



Permaculture Systems

1 Permaculture principles

- Nature and scope
- Principles of permaculture
- Location
- Functions
- Elements
- Elevation planning
- Biological resources
- Recycling energy
- Diversity
- Natural succession
- Maximising edges
- Other concepts and systems that have been incorporated into permaculture
- Sustainability
- Organics
- No dig gardening (from Esther Deans)
- No till planting
- Crop rotation
- Green manure cropping
- Composting
- Companion planting
- Pests, disease prevention and management

2 Design principles

- Ecosystems
- Abiotic components of an ecosystem
- Biotic components of an ecosystem
- Ecological concepts and terms
- Biomass
- Understanding climate
- Microclimates
- Degree days
- Water in permaculture systems
- Minimising water needs
- Arid landscapes
- Irrigation
- Using swales
- Reed beds for waste water treatment
- Reed bed plant species
- Hydrological cycle
- Water - Direct fall onto land surface, intercepted fall, fall onto water bodies
- Rainfall, Evaporation, Infiltration
- Effective rainfall
- Soil Environments - micro organisms and organic matter
- Types of soil degradation
- Types of erosion & control
- Salinity and its control

- Soil acidification and management of pH
- Wildlife in a Permaculture system
- Structure of a Permaculture system
- Plants and their function in permaculture
- Guilds and stacking
- Successions

3 Zone & sector planning

- Scope and nature
- Five standard zones
- Sectors
- Landscape profile
- Site selection
- Pre planning information; what is needed and how to find it
- Procedure for concept design; step by step
- Recording site and locality details

4 Permaculture techniques

- Forests and trees
- Trees as energy transducers
- Types of forests; fuel, food, forage, shelter, barrier, structural, conservation
- Forest establishment
- Designing fire or wind break
- Fire resistant plants
- Mandala gardens & their construction
- Keyhole beds
- Water bodies in a permaculture system
- Water body design
- Water containment options
- Water plants (Three types)
- Managing water bodies

5 Animals in Permaculture

- Location for animals
- Functions for animals in permaculture systems
- Bees, poultry, pigs, cattle and grazing animals
- Types of fencing (post and rail, hedge, wire, barbed wire, electric, banks and rises, gates)
- Animal water supply
- Shelter for animals - trees, a valley, purpose built shelter
- Birds
- Earthworms
- Aquaculture scope and nature
- Aquaculture production systems (EP and IP)
- Aquaculture species
- Aquaculture management
- Harvesting fish

Permaculture Systems (Continued)

6 Plants in Permaculture

- Scope and nature of plants for use in permaculture
- Growing vegetables organically
- Physical characteristics of a soil
- How to test and name a soil
- Chemical characteristics of a soil
- Soil nutrition
- Fertilisers
- Animal manures
- Liquid plant feeds
- Rock dusts
- Nitrogen fixation
- Mycorrhizae
- Identifying plant nutrient deficiencies
- Using mulches
- Types of mulch
- Weed management
- Preventative weed control
- Other methods of weed control
- Culture of selected permaculture plants - asparagus, black locust, cassava, chicory, dandelion, endive, fennel, garlic, ginger, horseradish, leek, mint, okra, pigface, rhubarb, sweet potato, tarowarrigul greens, water cress, water spinach, yams
- Culture of selected fruits - apple, apricot, cherry, citrus, fig, loquat, nashi pear, olive, peach, pear, plum, quince
- Culture of selected tropical fruits - avocado, banana, carambola, coconut, custard apple, guava, mango, paw paw, pepino, pineapple
- Culture of selected vines - grape, passionfruit, kiwifruit
- Culture of selected berries
- Culture of selected nuts
- Culture of rarer nuts

- Crop plants which grow in shade
- Fodder plants
- Plant pest and disease management for permaculture
- Plants with insecticidal properties

7 Appropriate Technologies

- Scope and nature of appropriate technology
- Solar energy
- Wind energy
- Methane
- Biofuel power
- Composting toilets
- Energy efficient housing
- Living fences (hedges, hedgerows etc)
- Water recycling
- Domestic needs - climate control, space heating, washing and drying clothes, cooking and cook stoves, refrigeration and cooling, hot water supplies, water conservation, electricity and lighting
- Alternative energy and management
- Waste disposal: kitchen waste, non composting waste, recycling
- Biological filtration system
- Conservation and recycling
- Types of waste water (liquid waste, grey water, black water)
- Energy conservation
- Solar energy
- Solar greenhouses

8 Preparing a Plan

- Scope, nature and methods
- Designing for natural disasters
- Drawing a plan
- Developing the final design





Elective Module – Select 1 specialist elective module

Fruits and Vegetables

A comprehensive fruit and vegetable elective that will give you the knowledge and understanding of growing, cultivating, maintaining and harvesting fresh produce.

This elective is ideal for anyone serious about fruit and vegetable growing; from orchard and farm workers to small hobby farmers and amateur gardeners passionate about growing their own food.

This elective is made up of the following specialist subjects:

- Commercial Organic Vegetable Growing
- Commercial Vegetable Production
- Fruit Production – Temperate Climate
- Fruit Production – Warm Climate

Herbs

Learn all about herbs: growing, harvesting and using herbs for all sorts of culinary, medicinal and commercial purposes with an additional focus on Australian native bush tucker plants. A comprehensive course for gardeners, herb farmers, or anyone interested in herbs.

Learn how to identify and successfully grow common and uncommon edible, medicinal and native herbs. You'll also learn about which soils are suited to growing herbs, growing requirements, propagation and control of pests and diseases as well as commercial aspects.

This elective is made up of the following specialist subjects:

- Culinary Herbs
- Herb Culture
- Bush Tucker Plants
- Medicinal Herbs

Flowers

Learn to grow cut flowers and join the dynamic cut flower industry or improve your chance at advancement in this expanding sector of the horticulture industry.

This elective is suited for beginners looking to learn about growing cut flowers, those already working in the industry looking to upskill and individuals looking to set up their own cut flower farm or business.

This elective is made up of the following specialist subjects:

- Cut Flower Production
- Greenhouse Cut Flowers
- Botany I (Plant Physiology and Taxonomy)
- Plant Breeding

Nuts and Berries

A broad elective teaching you how to properly grow and produce warm and temperate climate nuts, grapes and berries.

This will provide a sound foundation and training for commercial growers and/or staff of nut and berry farms and vineyards. It is also designed for students looking to work in these sectors as well as hobby growers who wants to get more serious about growing berry fruits.

This elective is made up of the following specialist subjects:

- Nut Production
- Warm Climate Nuts
- Viticulture
- Berry Production

Optional Modules – Select any of the following courses for an additional fee

Mushroom Production

Learn all you need to know about mushrooms from growing, making compost through to harvesting your produce and all that falls in between. Centred on the most widely cultivated mushroom genus, the *Agaricus* fungi this course will also provide a valuable introduction to wider range of mushrooms and can be used as a starting point for growing other varieties.

This course is aimed at students who would like to work in the industry, set up their own commercial mushroom farm and hobby gardeners who would like to grow mushrooms for their own pleasure.

Organic Plant Culture

Study how to grow plants naturally by using organic methods and create a sustainable eco-garden. Develop a solid understanding of the principles and procedures underlying the cultivation of fruit and vegetables by natural methods and practices.

This is similar to a commercial organic vegetable growing course, but has added content on fruit trees, crops and ornamentals. Through this course you can lay a foundation in the skills needed to be an effective organic gardener or farmer.

Machinery and Equipment

Learn about the maintenance and selection of machinery and equipment used in construction, agriculture and horticulture industries.

Develop your understanding of equipment, and ability to manage the selection, operation and maintenance of tools and machinery with particular reference to professional gardening, agriculture and horticulture. This course will allow you to understand the use and operation of tools, equipment and machines used in horticulture and how to keep them running smoothly by yourself.

Soil Management (Crops)

Learn all about soil management to know what you need to know to ensure the healthy development of plants. Over eight lessons, this course will develop your understanding of physical and chemical properties of soils, the ability to carry out simple tests and determine soil characteristics, and to decide ways of treating a soil in order to improve its ability to grow plants.

The course is specifically designed for crop production and is beneficial for market gardeners, those working on cropping farms who need a broader understanding of soils and hobby farmers.





Course overview



Course duration

This course is made up of 3 in-depth modules which includes 28 lessons and 1 free specialist elective module. The amount of study time required to complete this course is approximately 700 hours of study.

There are options to reduce the modules from this program. Just speak to one of our team members for more information.



Supporting you in your studies

With our courses you are not on your own. Careers Collectiv provides the highest level of support possible.

Your tutor will provide you with their email and contact number to ensure you always have support throughout your course. Our tutor support service is available to you 24 hours, 7 days a week.



24/7 Access

Online 24/7 access to your course allowing you to fit your study in with your schedule.



Certification

A certificate of attainment will be issued upon completion of your course.

Careers Collectiv benefits

- Study from anywhere, anytime
- No experience required
- No set deadlines
- Lifetime access to your course

Flexible payment options

This course can be paid off through an interest free payment plan for \$35 per week.

The overall price will vary depending on the options you select. We also offer a discount for upfront payments.

To find out more about the course that best suits your needs, talk to one of our career advisors on **1300 001 703**.

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