



## Careers in Horticulture

*Your guide to training, jobs and opportunities*

Liverpool & Merseyside | Level 1 to Level 3 | SEND-friendly options may be available

### Why Choose a Career in Horticulture?

- Work outdoors with plants, gardens, parks and green spaces
- Calm, practical work — great if you prefer nature to noisy classrooms
- Liverpool's parks, National Trust sites and grounds teams need green skills
- Level 1 routes available with lots of hands-on learning
- See the results of your work grow — literally
- Growing demand for green skills, sustainability and food growing

### Skills and Personal Qualities

- Enjoying outdoor work in all weathers
- Patience — plants take time to grow
- Practical skills with tools and machinery
- Attention to detail when planting, pruning and maintaining
- Physical fitness and stamina
- Working independently once you know your tasks

### Useful School Subjects

- Science — plant biology, soil and growing conditions
- Design Technology — using tools and equipment safely
- Geography — seasons, weather and environments
- Maths — measuring areas, spacing and quantities
- Art — garden design and planting schemes (later routes)

### Local Courses (Levels 1 to 3)

Courses are available at local colleges across Merseyside. Many courses accept students without GCSEs.

#### Horticulture Courses

- Myerscough College (Croxteth Park, Liverpool) — Horticulture Level 1 to Level 3
- Greenbank College — supported horticulture and land-based routes
- SWRAC (Bootle & Widnes) — supported horticulture and employability programmes
- Activate — specialist supported learning with horticulture options

#### SEND-Friendly & Supported Provision

- Supported study options may be available — speak to your careers adviser about what could work for you

## Apprenticeships and Training

- Horticulture & Landscape Operative Apprenticeship — Level 2
- Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship — Level 2
- Sports Turf Operative Apprenticeship — Level 2
- Landscape Supervisor Apprenticeship — Level 3
- Search live vacancies: [www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)
- Supported Internships (for students with an EHCP) are run by local colleges with their selected employer partners — ask your careers adviser whether this route could suit you

## Jobs, Volunteering and Work Experience

Horticulture careers cover gardens, parks, sports grounds, garden centres and plant nurseries.

Role	Where You Work	Starting Qualification
Grounds Maintenance Operative	Parks, schools, housing associations	Level 1 or no formal qualifications
Gardener	Private gardens, estates, National Trust	Level 1–2 Horticulture
Plant Nursery Assistant	Nurseries, garden centres	Level 1 or no formal qualifications
Garden Centre Assistant	Garden centres	No formal qualifications — training given
Greenkeeper	Golf courses, sports grounds	Level 2 Apprenticeship
Landscaper	Landscaping companies	Level 2 + practical experience
Parks Operative	Council parks teams	Level 1–2

**Typical starting salary: £16,000–£21,000. Skilled gardeners, greenkeepers and supervisors can earn £22,000–£30,000+.**

### Work Experience & Volunteering

- Volunteer with Liverpool parks friends groups, city farms or community gardens
- National Trust and Croxteth Park offer volunteering and placements
- Grow at home or in a school garden — every bit of experience counts

## Next Steps and Contact Information

- Visit college open days and websites
- Search for local jobs: [www.indeed.co.uk](http://www.indeed.co.uk) | [www.notjustjobs.com](http://www.notjustjobs.com)
- Find apprenticeships: [www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

<b>TAGS Careers</b>	<a href="http://www.tags.careers">www.tags.careers</a> — local careers information and resources
<b>Colleges &amp; Providers</b>	Myerscough Croxteth: <a href="http://www.myerscough.ac.uk">www.myerscough.ac.uk</a>   Greenbank: <a href="http://www.greenbankcollege.org.uk">www.greenbankcollege.org.uk</a>   SWRAC: <a href="http://www.swrac.co.uk">www.swrac.co.uk</a>   Activate: <a href="http://www.activateces.org.uk">www.activateces.org.uk</a>
<b>More Support</b>	Your careers adviser can provide additional guidance tailored to your needs
<b>Apprenticeships</b>	<a href="http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk">www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk</a>   <a href="http://www.indeed.co.uk">www.indeed.co.uk</a>   <a href="http://www.notjustjobs.com">www.notjustjobs.com</a>