



Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh

RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture 2018-19



Helping you to explore the world of plants



Welcome...

...to the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), and thank you for requesting further information on the RHS level 2 (Royal Horticultural Society Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture). This course replaced the old Level 2 Certificate in Horticulture in 2010.

We're delighted that you are considering joining the course here at RBGE. We offer this nationally accredited course in a format designed to fit in with your life. Our daytime course allows you to study in the mornings, the evening course is ideally suited to those who are working full time, and the distance learning option offers the most flexibility. All courses will provide you with everything you need to know to pass.

This is a fantastic place to be a student – a world renowned centre for horticultural and botanical training and research. We have some superb resources, the jewel in the crown being our living collections – over 15,000 species of plants growing across our four Gardens; Edinburgh, Benmore, Dawyck and Logan. Perhaps even more important for our students though, is the expertise of our horticultural and botanical staff. The RHS Level 2 course offers students expert input and tuition from specialists in every branch of horticulture and botany. The opportunity to study in and behind the scenes of RBGE is an enjoyable and rewarding one for all of our students.

This handbook introduces you to the RHS Level 2 course. We hope it answers all your questions, but please don't hesitate to contact us via the details below if you have any further queries.



**Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh**

Education Department
rhslevel2@rbge.org.uk
0131 248 2937

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Introduction to the course

The RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture is the most widely regarded entry-level horticulture course. It is suitable for anyone with a passion for plants and gardens who wants to develop their knowledge. The certificate delivers a broad-based understanding of horticultural techniques and plant biology, and provides you with a qualification that is recognised internationally by the horticulture industry. This broad base makes it the ideal starting point or first qualification for those wishing to pursue a career or business in any branch of horticulture or garden design. It is also perfect for leisure gardeners who would like to expand their horticultural knowledge, and to have it formally assessed.

The award of the Certificate is based on written examinations. These are externally set and marked by the RHS. The certificate is accredited by OFQUAL (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) in England and Wales.

When you complete the course, you may be able to look at developing your skills to the highest level through RBGE's HND or BSc in Horticulture with Plantsmanship.

1. Entry requirements

The RHS Level 2 Certificate does not require any existing qualifications or experience. All you need is an interest in the subject and a willingness to set aside several hours a week for study. Overall we are looking for keen, enthusiastic 'plants people' of all ages, who would value the opportunity to study at RBGE and will contribute to the programme.

We do advise that you should have some very basic confidence with computers, as the attended and distance courses both make use of PropaGate learning, our online learning environment. There is further information on this later in the handbook.

Attended Course

Where there is competition for places on the attended course, we will accept those we feel would most benefit from attending the course. Currently RBGE does not have capacity to recruit student nationals from outside the European Economic Area on our attended courses. A full list of eligible countries is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/eu-eea>

Distance Learning Course

You must be self-motivated, have access to an internet-ready computer and e-mail account for the distance learning course.

2. Course structure and content

The RHS Level 2 course is aimed towards the examinations set by the RHS, so the content is predominantly theory. We provide you with a complete set of information and learning support to help you pass the exams.

The course is broken down into two separate certificates that are designed to stand alone. When combined, they make up the *RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture*.

Principles of Plant Growth, Propagation and Development	Guided learning hours	Additional Self-directed studies in hours	Total Qualification Time*	QCF Credits^
1. Plant classification, structure and function	31	24	55	5
2. Plant nutrition and the root environment	23	12	35	3
3. Maintaining plant health	22	12	34	3
4. Understanding plant propagation	23	12	35	3

***The RHS have estimated that the Total Qualification Time** required for students to study this certificate is 159 hours. We have apportioned the number of hours required for each unit based on the guided learning hours.

^The total number of QCF credits for this Certificate is 14 Credits.

Principles of Garden Planning, Establishment and Maintenance	Guided learning hours	Additional Self-directed studies in hours	Total Qualification Time*	QCF Credits^
5. Understanding garden features, plant selection and planning	29	26	55	5
6. Understanding the choice, establishment and maintenance of gardens plants and lawns	22	11	33	3
7. Understanding the production of outdoor vegetables and fruit	23	11	34	3
8. Understanding protected environments and their use in plant cultivation	23	11	34	3

***The RHS have estimated that the Total Qualification Time** required for students to study this certificate is 156 hours. We have apportioned the number of hours required for each unit based on the guided learning hours.

^The total number of QCF credits for this Certificate is 14 Credits.

3. Principles of Plant Growth, Propagation and Development (Certificate 1)

A certificate focusing on many of the processes that go on 'behind the scenes' in a plant. These are the fundamentals that help everything else make sense in plants when you are working with them in the garden.

Unit 1: Plant classification, structure and function

This unit provides a solid grounding in basic botany. Considerable time is devoted to understanding the structures and processes that allow plants to survive – from the cellular level right through to the myriad variety of leaves, flowers and fruits that make horticultural plants so interesting. Whilst there is a considerable amount of technical botanical information in this unit, it is geared towards real-life situations, making it easy to understand and apply in gardening and wider horticultural contexts.

Unit 2: Plant nutrition and the root environment

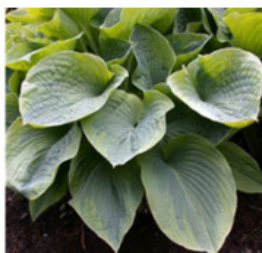
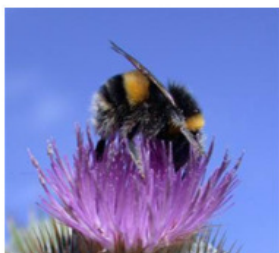
One of the keys to maintaining healthy plants is, of course, an understanding of plant nutrition. This unit works through plant nutrition from first principles. We cover soil structure and properties – both mineral and organic, as well as looking at the fauna and microflora that the soil harbours and the ways in which these organisms interact with each other, the soil, and the plants growing there. Soil management is an important part of this unit, so we also look at how to use the right compost, fertilizer or mulch for the job.

Unit 3: Maintaining plant health

This unit discusses weeds, pests and diseases and their control. As well as this, we cover plant physiological problems – such as the effects of nutrient deficiencies, drought, overwatering and excessive sun and shade.

Unit 4: Understanding plant propagation

Successful, safe propagation is one of the fundamental skills for the horticulturist and gardener. This unit covers propagation, both from seed and using vegetative methods. We discuss the relative merits and disadvantages of each type of propagation and which is the most appropriate for each plant or group of plants. Vegetative propagation includes learning about techniques such as cuttings, layering and grafting, as well as care and safe use of the tools and equipment needed to do the job.



4. Principles of Garden Planning, Establishment and Maintenance (Certificate 2)

A certificate focused on gardens and the huge diversity of plants and other materials available to the gardener. Emphasis is placed on the selection and maintenance of plants, with a great deal of information from the first certificate feeding in to support this one.

Unit 5: Understanding garden features, plant selection and maintenance

This unit is an introduction to the principles of garden design, from site analysis and identification of purpose and potential, through surveying, to putting together the actual designs. Garden styles, materials and the initial processes of bed layouts are discussed. Soft landscaping and the selection of plants is then introduced with an opportunity to learn about a huge range of horticulturally significant plants – something for every situation – and this theme continues into the next unit.

Unit 6: Understanding the choice, establishment and maintenance of garden plants and lawns

Continuing on from the previous unit we look at how to select plants for whatever job you have in mind. Everyone will be able to bring some of their own knowledge to this unit as we cover the following topics:-

1. Annuals and herbaceous perennials appropriate for bedding, borders and baskets. We also look at the different ways in which to organise these planting schemes for any garden situation.
2. Woody plants are a very large group, encompassing ornamental trees, shrubs, climbers, hedging plants and ground cover.
3. Lawns and turfing, including choice of plants, establishment of lawns, and annual care.
4. Alpine and rock garden plants and choosing and growing these specialised plants.
5. Planting and maintaining a garden pool.

Unit 7: Understanding the production of outdoor vegetables and fruit

Whether you are cultivating fruit, vegetables, or both, food crops are one of the most rewarding groups of plants to grow. This unit provides an overview of the most common food garden and smallholding plants grown in the UK and similar climates. Groups include tree, bush and cane fruits such as apples, currants and raspberries, soft fruits (e.g. strawberries) and a wide range of vegetables such as peas, brassicas, lettuces and carrots. Cultivation strategies and timing, as well as pest control are important elements of this unit. We also discuss the broader theory behind site selection, crop rotation, making beds and soil cultivation.

Unit 8: Understanding protected environments and their use in plant cultivation

Protected cultivation covers a diverse range of techniques used to cultivate plants in a protected environment. This unit covers the whole spectrum, from simple container grown plants through to cultivation of plants in glasshouses, conservatories and indoors. We look at the ways in which these forms of protected cultivation differ from each other and from the outdoor environment.

5. Examinations

Each unit will be assessed by a separate written examination covering all learning outcomes specified in that unit. The examinations will be offered twice a year, in February and June. The exams are a good challenge, and the qualification is one of the reasons many people join the course. However, the course is designed to be great fun and a valuable learning experience even if you do not do the exams, so there is no obligation to sit them.

Registering for Exams

RBGE Exam Registration forms will be issued to all students when registrations open. This is usually in October for the February Exams and March for the June Exams. Applications are subject to catchment area and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Examination Fees

The RHS registration fee for the exams is £14 per unit, the total cost to sit all 8 units is £112.

Attended Course

Fees for sitting each unit once at RBGE are included in the fees for the attended course.

Distance Learning Course

As a distance learning student you can take the examinations at any of the RHS registered examination centres across the UK.

Due to the success of the distance learning courses, RBGE is no longer able to accept exam registrations for all students studying with us via distance learning. As a result we will only be able to accept exam candidates from Scotland, Northern Ireland and UK applicants that are based in and north of Newcastle.

If you live out with this catchment area, we strongly advise you check availability at local exam centres to be sure you have somewhere to sit the exams before signing up for the course.

Find your nearest centre:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/qualifications-and-training/rhs-qualifications/find-a-centre>

- If you have any physical or written access requirements (e.g. if you have dyslexia or English is not your first language) please contact RBGE when you register for your exam. In addition, it is very helpful if you can include a doctor's note or similar information with your exam registration form.

Non-UK based students

It may be possible for you to arrange to take the exams in other countries by contacting RHS directly. We suggest checking this before signing up for the course. Otherwise you can choose a UK based centre that will be easy for you to travel to.

Further details about RHS qualifications and the exams are available on the RHS website: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/qualifications-and-training>

RHS Qualifications Office: 01483 226 500 Email: Qualifications@rhs.org.uk

Examination Dates

February 2019

Level 2 Certificate in Plant Growth, Propagation and Development

Monday 11 February 2019

- | | | |
|---|------------|---------------|
| • R2101 Plant classification, structure and function | 80 minutes | 09:30 – 10:50 |
| • R2102 Plant nutrition and the root environment | 50 minutes | 11:20 – 12:10 |
| • R2103 Maintaining plant health | 50 minutes | 13:30 – 14:20 |
| • R2104 Understanding plant propagation | 50 minutes | 14:50 – 15:40 |

Level 2 Certificate in Garden Planning, Establishment and Maintenance

Tuesday 12 February 2019

- **R2111** Understanding garden features, plant selection and planning
80 minutes 09:30 – 10:50
- **R2112** Understanding choice, establishment & maintenance of garden plants & lawns
50 minutes 11:20 – 12:10
- **R2113** Understanding the production of outdoor vegetables and fruit
50 minutes 13:30 – 14:20
- **R2114** Understanding protected environments and their use in plant cultivation
50 minutes 14:50 – 15:40

June 2019

Level 2 Certificate in Plant Growth, Propagation and Development

Monday 24 June 2019

- | | | |
|---|------------|---------------|
| • R2101 Plant classification, structure and function | 80 minutes | 09:30 – 10:50 |
| • R2102 Plant nutrition and the root environment | 50 minutes | 11:20 – 12:10 |
| • R2103 Maintaining plant health | 50 minutes | 13:30 – 14:20 |
| • R2104 Understanding plant propagation | 50 minutes | 14:50 – 15:40 |

Level 2 Certificate in Garden Planning, Establishment and Maintenance

Tuesday 25 June 2019

- **R2111** Understanding garden features, plant selection and planning
80 minutes 09:30 – 10:50
- **R2112** Understanding choice, establishment & maintenance of garden plants & lawns
50 minutes 11:20 – 12:10
- **R2113** Understanding the production of outdoor vegetables and fruit
50 minutes 13:30 – 14:20
- **R2114** Understanding protected environments and their use in plant cultivation
50 minutes 14:50 – 15:40

6. Education at RBGE

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh has always been an institution devoted to learning in all its forms. It began life as a physic garden, in which Edinburgh's aspiring doctors could learn about the cures they would encounter during their work. Needless to say, a lot has changed since, but the mission of RBGE remains much the same – 'To explore, conserve and explain the world of plants for a better future'. The education department helps explain the world of plants to everybody from nursery school children through to adult learners of all ages.

We offer diverse and varied schools programmes, and a huge range of further and short and professional courses including RBGE Certificates and Diplomas, HND/BSc and MSc.

Our focus on horticulture and botanical education allows us to devote the expertise of our staff to supporting students through their studies. No matter what they are coming here to learn, students always find RBGE a friendly and welcoming place. We also have the benefit of excellent living collections and a newly developed teaching nursery.

RBGE has three Regional Gardens in addition to the Garden at Edinburgh. All of them are equally committed to public outreach and education: Benmore Botanic Garden in Scotland's temperate west coast rainforest; exotic Logan Botanic Garden, basking in the Gulf Stream and Dawyck Botanic Garden, nestled in the cool dry climate of the Border hills.

7. Practical Horticulture Courses and Workshops

RBGE offers a series of practical courses and workshops which offer a useful complement to this course. The RBGE Certificate in Practical Horticulture may be of particular interest to you. Please see the RBGE Professional Courses webpage or the Short Course programme for details of these. Both can be found here:

www.rbge.org.uk/education

Attended Course

1. Course duration & course dates

The RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture is a one-year part-time course. There are two attended courses at RBGE:

- A. Day classes** on a Wednesday from 10.00am until 12.30pm
- B. Evening classes** on a Wednesday from 6.30pm until 9.00pm

These courses broadly follow the academic year. This year the course dates are:

- **Term 1:** Wednesdays 15th August – 12th December 2018
- **Term 2:** Wednesdays 16th January – 3rd April 2019
- **Term 3:** Wednesdays 17th April – 19th June 2019*

**the final exams will take place Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th June 2019.*

Half term and other holidays usually match those for Edinburgh schools, however these are just a guide and you will receive a full timetable at the beginning of the course.

The RHS Level 2 course is aimed towards the examinations set by the RHS, so the content is predominantly theory. Each unit is supported by a text book, online resources and ongoing learning support from tutors to help you pass the exams. Course tutors are RBGE staff and other experienced horticulturists and botanists. The text book is included in the course fee and you will be given your own copy on the first day.

Before each session you will be asked to do some self-study, this may involve reading or working through specified sections of relevant online material or a section of the textbook, if you don't have access to the internet. During each session the tutor will review the theory with you, checking that you have understood the material. This may be through a garden walkround, mini-workshops, activities, discussions, informal quizzes or looking at past papers. This will help you to build up and deepen the core knowledge you need for the exams and to get on in horticulture. The sessions are an ideal opportunity to broaden your experience of horticulture.

An essential part of every session is the coffee break, where you have a chance to meet your fellow students, discuss all things horticultural and make fast friends.

If you take the attended course, you can expect to do around 5 hours per week self-study, which can be reading or homework set by tutors or your own research and revision. Spending time working on your own or other gardens is a great way to revise your knowledge (as long as you *think* about what you're doing!).

Applicants are asked to note that the focus of this course is on the theory behind the *science of horticulture* and not on the *art of gardening*. It is a classroom and lecture based course that has minimal practical element, some note taking may be required. You may wish to bring in a camera to take photos of useful demonstrations or materials and equipment.

2. Course Costs

The fee for the attended courses is **£680**, which is payable on acceptance of a place and includes the following:

- Full series of classes
- Course textbook
- Exam registration fees for one sitting of each paper
- Access to PropaGate Learning and all the resources for RHS Level 2.

3. PropaGate Learning

PropaGate Learning is a website that you can log into in order to access a number of additional resources which includes: Videos, Interactive Lessons, Quizzes, Online Forums, Links to useful websites, an e-book, PDFs, presentations and other materials.

It's a place for learning and for discussing topics and progress with other students and tutors, including those on our Distance Learning Course, and lets you become part of a thriving and enthusiastic learning community.

To access the site we recommend using a desktop or laptop computer. Most of the course will be accessible via a tablet, but we recommend using a laptop or desktop computer as you may find some aspects of the course will be easier to use on a computer. The computer must have an up-to-date version of a browser (e.g. Firefox, Chrome, Internet Explorer, Safari). You will also need software that will open PDFs (e.g. Adobe Reader) and a reliable internet connection.

4. Application procedure

Please complete and return the attended course application form to us as soon as possible. The application deadline is Friday 6th July 2018. Places are limited and where there is competition for places we will accept those we feel would most benefit from attending the course.

Applications can be sent by post or scanned and emailed to: rhslevel2@rbge.org.uk

You will receive an acknowledgment of your form being received. Successful candidates will be notified within 2 weeks of the application deadline.

Fees are payable on acceptance of your place and must be paid prior to the commencement of the course.

Please contact the Education Department, 0131 248 2937 or rhslevel2@rbge.org.uk if you have any questions.



Attended Course Application Form RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture (RHS)

Candidates will be selected on the basis of the answers given to the questions below.

Please send your completed form to:

Education Department (RHS)
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
20a Inverleith Row
Edinburgh
EH3 5LR

1. Personal Details

Title Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr / Other _____

Name: _____ Contact Numbers: _____

Address: _____ Daytime: _____
_____ Evening: _____
_____ Mobile: _____

Sex: M / F (delete as appropriate)

Date of Birth: _____
(dd/mm/yy)

Email Address: _____

Nationality: _____

2. Application Details (please tick any boxes that apply)

Attended Course:

First Choice

Mornings, 10.00am - 12.30pm (A) ☐

Evenings, 6.30pm - 9.30pm (B) ☐

Second Choice (if applicable)

Mornings, 10.00am - 12.30pm (A) ☐

Evenings, 6.30pm - 9.30pm (B) ☐

Do not send any money with this form. If you are offered a place payment will be requested in advance of the start of the course.

4. Application Form

Existing Qualifications & Experience (in brief)

Professional Background

Reasons for applying for this course?

What do you hope to gain from this course?

Where did you hear about this course?

Do you have any additional support needs? Please give details.

For office use only:

Date received	application		Reference Number	
Offered place	Yes / No	Date:	Place accepted	Yes / No Date:

Distance Learning Course

1. How does it work?

Learning Online

Your online learning environment is PropaGate Learning which uses the Moodle learning platform.

PropaGate Learning is website that you log into in order to access your course. It's a place for learning and for discussing topics and progress with your tutors and other students. PropaGate Learning allows you to study from home, whilst becoming part of a thriving and enthusiastic learning community.

Your course will consist of a number of elements which may include: e-books, PDFs, presentations, videos, interactive lessons, quizzes, discussion forums and links to useful websites.

We continually review and update the course and we are currently working on adding more interactive lessons and these will be released gradually throughout the year.

How can I prepare for studying online?

You should be competent computer user with a basic understanding of standard computer applications such as using an internet browser, email and word processing. Experience of participating in online forums would also be a benefit, but not essential.

Our 'Digital Skills Check' at the following link will help you to identify any areas of IT you may need to brush up on: <https://tinyurl.com/y8nspgr4>

When you are first given access to PropaGate Learning, please take time to complete the Welcome Activity. This will give you an essential introduction to the tutors on your course, finding your way around, advice on learning independently and the best ways to communicate with tutors and other students.

Online courses require a much more self-motivated learning style than traditional attended classes. You should plan to set aside a certain amount of time to log into the course lessons and carry out tasks. The amount of time required depends on the number of units you are studying at a time, however we suggest 2-3 hours per week for 6 months if you want to take 2 exams at the end of that 6 months. Participation in online discussions is also a key part of the course – online learning is much more sociable than you might think!

What hardware or software will I need?

You will need access to a desktop or laptop computer. Most of the course will be accessible via a tablet, but we recommend using a laptop or desktop computer. You may find some aspects of the course will be easier to use on a computer.

Regarding software, you will need an up-to-date browser (e.g. Firefox, Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Safari). You will also need software that will open PDFs (e.g. Adobe Reader).

Most importantly you will need a reliable internet connection.

PropaGate Learning is available 24/7 with the exception of any maintenance work which we will inform you about in plenty of time.

What support is available?

We encourage everyone to make the most of the forums on the course. These provide a way for students to talk to one another and to tutors and ask each other questions. Tutors check the forums at regular intervals and will reply to forum queries within one week. There is also a private messaging activity within PropaGate Learning where you can contact tutors directly. Our PropaGate Learning team are always available so if you ever feel you are stuck with a course-related technical problem, they can be contacted via the forums or by emailing: propagatelearning@rbge.ac.uk

2. Study options

The content of the certificates is the same for the attended course and distance learning course. The course consists of 2 smaller certificates, which together make up the *RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture*. The certificates are:

Certificate 1: Principles of Plant Growth, Propagation and Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plant classification, structure and function
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plant nutrition and the root environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintaining plant health
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding plant propagation

Certificate 2: Principles of Garden Planning, Establishment and Maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding garden features, plant selection and planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding the choice, establishment and maintenance of gardens plants and lawns
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding the production of outdoor vegetables and fruit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding protected environments and their use in plant cultivation

The distance learning course allows students a really flexible way to study. You can choose to study the full course over 18 months or an individual certificate over 9 months.

The course has been accredited a credit value of 28 by OFQUAL i.e. it is considered to require 315 learning hours to complete the full courses to the required standard. If you wished to complete the full course within 9 months, that would equate to c. 8½ hours of self-study a week. Our students' experience of the course suggests between 5 and 10 hours a week on average for 9 month, starting in September and taking the exams in February and June the following year.

The table below shows when the exams are in relation to the month you apply. Note, your access to PropaGate will run for 9 months or 18 months from the date your account is activated by RBGE. Note we do not accept applications in June, July or August.

Application Month	9 Months			18 Months		
	Exam sittings during your enrolment		Enrolment Ends	Exam sittings during your enrolment (Includes 9 months)		Enrolment Ends
September 2018	February 2019	June 2019	June 2019	June 2019	February 2020	March 2020
October 2018	February 2019	June 2019	July 2019	June 2019	February 2020	April 2020
November 2018	February 2019	June 2019	August 2019	June 2019	February 2020	May 2020
December 2018	June 2019		September 2019	February 2020	June 2020	June 2020
January 2019	June 2019		October 2019	February 2020	June 2020	July 2020
February 2019	June 2019		November 2019	February 2020	June 2020	August 2020
March 2019	June 2019		December 2019	February 2020	June 2020	September 2020
April 2019	June 2019		January 2020	February 2020	June 2020	October 2020
May 2019	February 2020		February 2020	June 2020		November 2020

It is possible to sit exams outside of your enrolment period, it just means you will no longer have access to the course materials on PropaGate.

3. Course Costs

The fee for the full course is £400 (18 months online support) or £250 for each of the individual certificates (9 months online support). This is payable on application and includes:

- Access to PropaGate Learning
- Tutors support for any horticultural study questions

4. Additional online support and resources

Online Support

As well as the discussion forums and messaging on PropaGate Learning, we use forums and e-mail to provide administration support. This will be used for contacting you with information about exams, study weekends or other course-related news.

Your online support period will start from the date your PropaGate Learning account is activated and will last:

- 9 months for an individual certificate
- 18 months for the full course

It is possible to extend your online support period for an additional 6 months for a fee of £50.

Course Textbook

If you wish to buy the course textbook you can do so. Once you have started the course we will tell you which textbook is being used and where you can buy it, there may be additional postage costs for international students.

5. Study weekends

The RBGE study weekends are a great complement to the distance-learning course. They give you the chance to meet with fellow students, get a close look at the plants and find out more about the skills involved in gardening.

Whether you want to brush up on a particular topic, or enhance your learning throughout the course, there is something for you.

Each study weekends runs 2 or 3 times a year and cost £90. Details of the dates and times of the study weekends will be made available on PropaGate throughout the year.

RBGE Study weekend 1

Our main topics for this weekend are **Botany** and **Soils and Growing media** – units 1 and 2 of the RHS Level 2 theory certificate.

We get out in the garden to look at the huge diversity of plants that gardeners have to play with, familiarise ourselves with all-important plant names. We introduce the structure of plants and have a chance to get in there with dissections and microscopes.

The second day will focus on soils, mulches and composting, with a chance to look at the different composting systems in use at RBGE. We will look at and handle some of the growing media listed in the Learning Outcomes.

This is also our gentle introduction to the RHS exams and how they work, as well as reviewing some of the exam papers.

Covers:

- Plant classification, structure and function
- Plant nutrition and the root environment

RBGE study weekend 2

Topics for this weekend are **Pests and Disease** and **Propagation (RHS Level 2 units 3 and 4)**. We'll focus on some of the pests and diseases and chemical controls specified in the learning outcomes. We'll look at integrated control methods – how to achieve a balanced ecosystem with good practice and low-level intervention.

We'll also have practical demonstrations and a chance to try out some of the propagation methods, as well as a close look at some of the kit for more technical forms of propagation.

We'll also take another look at the exams process, again with a review of exams questions and some tips and pointers on how to approach them.

Covers:

- Maintaining plant health
- Understanding plant propagation

RBGE Study weekend 3

This weekend helps you get to grips with a host of garden plants. We have a chance to get out in the garden and really brush up on **planting and landscape design, plant choice, and how to care for plants once they are in the garden** (units 5 and 6 of the RHS theory certificates). Focussing mostly on garden walkrounds to really get familiar with common (and some not-so-common) plants, we'll also have demonstrations of some of the key pruning and establishment techniques.

We recommend you come armed with some plant knowledge beforehand – especially if you've been working through the RHS Level 2 course - you should have plenty of theory under your belt.

As always we'll look at the exams in these two areas.

Covers these units:

- Understanding garden features, plant selection and planning
- Understanding the choice, establishment and maintenance of garden plants & lawns

RBGE study weekend 4

On this final weekend in the series, we're focussing on **growing plants for food outdoors**, as well as growing **plants in a protected environment** – units 7 and 8 of the combined RHS level 2 theory certificate. There is plenty to see out in the garden and in the glasshouses. We'll get familiar with some of the plants, the pests and diseases, and take a close look at some of the interesting challenges involved in these two forms of specialist growing. With walkrounds, critiques, and practical demonstration, as well as a superb opportunity to see behind the scenes in the glasshouses, this is a learning opportunity not to miss.

We'll also look at exam technique for this topic and review some of the more challenging questions of recent years.

Covers:

- Understanding the production of outdoor vegetables and fruit
- Understanding protected environments and their use in plant cultivation

6. Distance learning application procedure

Applications for the distance learning course are accepted between 3rd September 2018 and 31st May 2019. All you have to do is complete the distance learning course application form on the following pages of this handbook and return it to us along with payment, or apply online using our electronic form:

<http://propagatelearning.net/index.php/rhs-2-distance-apply-online>

**Please note the electronic form for 2018-19 will not be available until Monday 20th August 2018. You can use the online form for immediate start once payment has cleared up to the 31st May 2018.*

Your application will be processed within 5 working days of receipt and your PropaGate Learning account will be activated and course joining instructions will be sent once your payment has cleared.

Please contact the Education Department, 0131 248 2937 or rhslevel2@rbge.org.uk if you have any questions.



Distance Learning Application Form RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Horticulture (RHS)

Please send your completed form to: Education Department (RHSD)
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
20a Inverleith Row
Edinburgh
EH3 5LR

1. Personal Details

Title Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr / Other _____

Name: _____

Contact Numbers:

Address: _____

Daytime: _____

Evening: _____

Mobile: _____

Sex: M / F (delete as appropriate)

Date of Birth: _____
(dd/mm/yy)

Email Address: _____

Nationality: _____

2. Application Details (please select your learning option)

Distance Learning: £400 for the Full Course / £250 per certificate

I would like to study:

The Full Course ☐ Certificate 1 ☐ Certificate 2 ☐

3. Payment Details

Payment by Card

I wish to pay for the course by Credit / Debit Card. The total I need to pay is £_____

Name as it appears on the Card _____

Card Number

Start Date /

Expiry Date /

Security Number

4. Application Form

Existing Qualifications & Experience (in brief)

Professional Background

Reasons for applying for this course?

What do you hope to gain from this course?

Where did you hear about this course?

For office use only:

Date application received			Reference Number		
Offered place	Yes / No	Date:	Place accepted	Yes / No	Date: