

## RBGE Advanced Certificate in Botanical Illustration Materials List

### Paper

For drawing: A3 cartridge paper (called drawing paper in some parts of the world) such as Fabriano Accademia, Seawhite, Lambeth, Stonehenge drawing papers etc.

For painting: Hot pressed watercolour paper, size A3 or larger. We recommend:

- Saunders Waterford High White, HP 140lb/300gsm OR
- Arches HP 300gsm OR
- Stonehenge Aqua Smooth 300gsm OR
- Canson Moulin du Roy HP 300gsm
- Fabriano Artisico "Enhanced"
- Other hot-pressed paper if none of above are available

Tracing paper: two full sheets or pad

### Watercolour paints

These must be “artists’ quality” or “professional” quality. Colours we particularly recommend are

Winsor and Newton Professional Quality :

- Indanthrene Blue PB60
- French Ultramarine Green Shade PB29
- Permanent Rose PV19
- Winsor Red PR254
- Transparent Yellow PY150
- Winsor Lemon PY175

You can substitute other brands in similar colours. Daniel Smith, M. Graham, Schminke, Sennelier, Jacksons: check the labels to see if they contain the pigments you want.

You may also find you need other colours as the course progresses, depending on which plant you choose to paint for your final submission.

### Watercolour Brushes

Good quality brushes are essential. Kolinsky sable brushes are strongly recommended. Your brushes should have rounded and pointed bristles. Winsor & Newton Series 7 miniature brushes in sizes 2 and 4 are highly recommended, as are the regular sized Series 7 brushes. Other good brands are quite acceptable, such as Da Vinci or Raphael.

If you need to use synthetic brushes, invest in the highest-quality artists brushes you can find.

Manufacturers like Da Vinci, Princeton and Pro Arte are working hard to create adequate substitutes for sable brushes, but none of the synthetic brushes are as versatile as sables. So

you will need a selection of soft and firm synthetic brushes in various sizes. Cheaper synthetic brushes are also useful for mixing and some texture.

If you are buying directly from a shop, you should try to see if you can test out the brush before buying – most good art shops will let you do this.

## Other Materials

- HB, 2H, 3H pencils
- Pigment fineliner pen, the smallest nib size — 0.05
- Ceramic palette or white plate for mixing paint
- Eraser – Plastic and Putty
- Sharpener / knife
- 30cm clear Ruler and dividers
- Magnifying glass
- A hand lens or loupe, X10
- A “Pocket” microscope is recommended if you are working with a plant with small fruits. This should be x40-60 magnification - the one produced by the Natural History Museum, London, is ideal, although other brands are also available.

## Edinburgh Art Shops

Greyfriars Art Shop  
20 Dundas St  
Edinburgh

Greyfriars Art Shop  
1 Greyfriars Place  
Edinburgh

Hendersons Art Shop  
28A Raeburn Place  
Stockbridge  
Edinburgh

You may also find many of these things cheaper online at the following websites:

- [www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk)
- [www.jacksonsart.com](http://www.jacksonsart.com)
- [www.greatart.co.uk](http://www.greatart.co.uk)
- [www.rosemaryandco.com](http://www.rosemaryandco.com) (Series 33 Brushes)
- [www.artsupplies.co.uk](http://www.artsupplies.co.uk)
- [www.artdiscount.co.uk](http://www.artdiscount.co.uk)
- [www.saa.co.uk](http://www.saa.co.uk)