

# Horticulture Apprenticeships

Horticulture offers a rewarding career working outdoors preparing and maintaining seedbeds and growing sites. In this hands-on trade, apprentices may plant flowers, trees, hedges and bushes for commercial and residential properties, assess and maintain sporting fields and golf courses, and ensure safety practices are adhered to.

## What are some of the duties involved in a horticulture apprenticeship?

- ✓ Control plant pests, diseases and disorders
- ✓ Set softscape structures
- ✓ Use machinery to shape branches including chainsaws and handsaws
- ✓ Propagating and planting trees, bushes, hedges, flowers and bulbs
- ✓ Maintain planted and grassed areas by weeding, trimming, fertilising and watering
- ✓ Prepare and maintain lawn areas by spreading topsoil, laying turf and mowing

**4 Years**

- A fulltime horticulture apprenticeship goes for 4 years
- A horticulture (parks & gardens) school based apprenticeship (SBA) goes for 5 years, with the 1<sup>st</sup> year spread across Year 11 & 12
- A horticulture (parks & gardens) SBA must complete a minimum of 144 days of paid employment across Year 11 & 12
- Once a SBA finishes their HSC and SBA requirements they will become a 2<sup>nd</sup> year apprentice and can commence full time work
- Students can undertake a Certificate II Horticulture school based traineeship, complete 100 paid days of employment and may receive months credit towards a horticulture apprenticeship

## What does a typical week look like?

- ✓ 4 days per week at work
- ✓ 1 day per week at TAFE
- ✓ Employers may ask you to work Saturdays & overtime

## What are some of the units offered in the course?

- ✓ Control weeds
- ✓ Control plant pests, diseases and disorders
- ✓ Implement a plant nutrition program
- ✓ Provide Information on plants and their culture
- ✓ Implement a tree protection program
- ✓ Install cable and bracing
- ✓ Maintain natural areas
- ✓ Install pressurised irrigation systems
- ✓ Set out site for construction works
- ✓ Construct brick and block structures and features
- ✓ Implement a paving project
- ✓ Install water features
- ✓ Plan and maintain plant displays
- ✓ Contribute to work health and safety processes

## What qualification do you complete as part of the apprenticeship?

Certificate II in Horticulture (school based traineeship)

Certificate III in Horticulture – Parks & Gardens

Certificate III in Horticulture – Sports Turf Management Certificate III

## Additional studies after the apprenticeship:

Certificate IV in Horticulture

Diploma of Horticulture

## Career pathway:

- ✓ Horticulture Team Leader / Manager
- ✓ Business owner

## What we look for in a suitable candidate

- ✓ Passion for being outdoors
- ✓ Ability to communicate with clients
- ✓ Strong attention to detail and an eye for design
- ✓ Ability to problem solve
- ✓ Enjoy physical work
- ✓ White Card
- ✓ Drivers licence (except for school based apprentices)
- ✓ Own car (except for school based apprentices)

## Industry demand:

Horticulture trades people are in high demand, with horticulture being identified as a skills shortage area. This demand is likely to soar in line with the NSW Government's strategy to increase access to green, open and public spaces across the state.

## What is the pay rate?

<https://calculate.fairwork.gov.au/findyouraward>



## Questions?

If you have any questions, please call our office on 1800 993 200 or visit our website [www.mygateway.org.au](http://www.mygateway.org.au)

