

# Proposed Changes to RHS Qualifications and Transition Arrangements – Level 2

We appreciate learners considering an RHS course or partway through their programme are concerned over the validity and completion of their course with the introduction of our revised qualifications from September 2022. We have been working on transitional arrangements between our existing and new qualifications to ensure all learners have the opportunity to complete.

We hope this document outlines our plans but it is important to recognise that the qualifications have not yet been approved by the regulators, therefore the below is **subject to change**. Should changes be required RHS Qualifications will endeavour to ensure that these are kept to a minimum as far as we are able to do so.

## Revised Qualification Structure:

Following consultation with industry and various stakeholders, it is proposed RHS qualifications will continue with a separate theory and practical pathway. This will include the introduction of two new routes (practical and theory) and achievement of both will award learners with the overarching RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles and Practices of Horticulture.

The revised Level 2 has been designed to provide learners with the breadth of horticultural knowledge and skills required to carry out routine tasks proficiently, either to support learning in industry entry-level roles in the early stages of a horticultural career, or to meet the needs of amateur gardeners.

### Revised RHS Level 2 Structure from September 2022 (subject to Ofqual approval):



It is proposed that the following qualifications are seen as 'direct' replacements for their counterparts:



As there is no direct comparison, the existing **L2 Certificate in the Principles of Garden Planning, Establishment and Maintenance** (theory) will continue to run during academic year 2022/23. Please see note below under 'transition arrangements' for further information.

# Transition Plans from September 2022 (Level 2):

The table below shows how current learners may use a combination of old and new qualification structures to achieve the combined qualification they planned to achieve:

If a learner has studied the below by September 2022	They must <b>complete</b> the following qualifications by 31 July 2024 to be awarded the:	
	current Principles of Horticulture	current Principles and Practices of Horticulture (Diploma)
Plant Growth	Garden Planning	Garden Planning
		Practical Horticulture
Garden Planning	Principles of Horticulture	Principles of Horticulture
		Practical Horticulture
Practical		Garden Planning
		Principles of Horticulture
Plant Growth and Garden Planning		Practical Horticulture
Plant Growth and Practical	Garden Planning	Garden Planning
Garden Planning and Practical	Principles of Horticulture	Principles of Horticulture

Original qualification
  Revised Practical
  Revised Theory

Whilst the existing **L2 Certificate in the Principles of Garden Planning, Establishment and Maintenance** (theory) will continue to run during academic year 2022/23, it is important to flag that the last examination session for Gardening Planning is February 2024.

Any new learner enrolling on Garden Planning during 2022, with the aim to achieve the existing Level 2 Diploma or Level 2 Principles (both theory qualifications) may encounter challenges completing all elements before the assessment end dates – see timeline below. If this is your chosen route, learners must ensure sufficient time is allocated to achieve the associated combined qualification prior to July 2024.

Due to the structure and assessment design of the new qualifications, **please note** the transitional options above will only be available until the end of academic year 2023/24 (31<sup>st</sup> July 2024).

The above only applies to those learners holding the full qualification certificates. Those holding unit(s) recognition will be unable to transition.

## Enrolment Timeline:

To ensure learners have time to complete existing qualifications and to allow centres time to prepare for delivery of the new suite, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, no new programmes/enrolments may begin for the current:

- L2 Certificate in in the Principles of Plant Growth, Propagation and Development
- L2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, no new programmes may begin for the current:

- L2 Certificate in the Principles of Garden Planning, Establishment and Maintenance

## Assessment Timeline:

Learners enrolled or enrolling on the existing practical qualification in academic year 2021/22 should have completed the necessary assessments by September 2022.

Examination sessions (Feb/June) for the existing theory qualifications will continue up until February 2024. Learners studying these qualifications will need to ensure they complete the relevant exams prior to this date and allow sufficient time for resits.

The table below shows implementation dates for the new qualifications and assessment windows for current and new qualifications over the next four years. After July 2024 the transitional arrangements will end and no further assessments for the existing suite of qualifications will be available.

