Declared Purpose:

The following purpose is for the Level 3 Diploma in Horticulture 0078-03 (QAN no 500/8384/3). This is a Technical Level Qualification.

This level 3 Diploma in Horticulture is a qualification aimed at providing you with a range of practical skills and knowledge. This will help you to seek employment or progress into further training within the Horticulture Industry.

Who is this qualification for?

It is for someone who work or want to work within the Horticulture Industry.

The recommended entry requirements are the level 2 Certificate, Extended Certificate or Diploma in Horticulture and/or previous practical experience within a horticultural environment.

What does the qualification cover?

The learner will need to successfully complete about 13 units (depending on which ones are selected) in order to gain this qualification.

The qualification includes a large number of units covering a range of topics.

The mandatory units that everyone is required to take are:

- Plant Science
- Soil Science
- Business Management
- Investigative Project
- Work experience.

There are 41 optional units that you can choose from which allow you to pick areas of interest such as:

- Plant Propagation
- Organic Crop Production
- Interior Plant Displays
- Maintain Turf in Parks and Gardens
- Selection and Use of Ornamental Plants
- Garden Design Briefs
- Construct and Establish Sports and Amenity Turf Areas
- Identification, Planting and Care of Trees
- Manage Sports Turf Surfaces
- Estate Skills
- Machinery Operations.
For all units you will study both the practical and the knowledge of why you need to do and know certain things. You will get the chance to study different areas that really interest you, especially through the Investigative Project.

The period of work experience will allow you to gain further first-hand experience of working for a golf course or a municipal park for example or other related horticulture industries.

The Diploma is part of a larger suite of horticulture qualifications, and is broadly equivalent to two A Levels (two-thirds of a full time curriculum). The qualification provides a significant proportion of skills and knowledge for progression into a number of employment opportunities, but it can also be taken alongside another relevant qualification such as an A Level in Biology, Business or other related subject.

The qualification has been developed in conjunction with industry, and with the support of Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the Land-based Sector to ensure that it equips learners with the right skills and knowledge to be able to gain employment either directly or following further studies.

You may want to progress onto an Extended Diploma by taking about 6 more units.

What opportunities are there for employment or progression after I have finished studying this qualification?

The qualification allows you to progress into employment. You might work as a:

- Production Horticulture Worker/Manager
- Assistant Green keeper
- Assistant Estates Manager
- Park keeper
- Technical Advisor/Consultant
- Assistant Racecourse Manager
- Garden centre Manager
- Grounds Maintenance Worker.

You may wish to progress onto an Advanced Apprenticeship in Horticulture, which allows you to combine working for a Golf Course or a similar job, and typically attending one day a week at college or with a training provider.

You might want to go on to Higher Education. The following Higher Education Institutes recognise that this qualification fulfils the requirements for entry onto a range of HE programmes (in its own right or alongside an other Level 3 qualification, such as an A Level):

- University of Portsmouth
- Myerscough College
- Reaseheath College.
You can go on to study subjects such as:

FdSc Horticulture
BSc (Hons) Horticulture
FdSc Sports Turf
BSc (Hons) Sports Turf Science & Management
Garden Design FdSc
Garden Design – top up BSc (Hons).

This qualification carries 80 to 280 UCAS points (depending on the grade achieved).

See the following link http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/explore-your-options/entry-requirements/tariff-tables

Further information can be found on our website and within the qualification handbook: