

Horticultural Worker

What is it?

A horticultural worker is involved in the cultivation and maintenance of plants for various purposes, including food production, landscaping, and conservation. They work in settings such as gardens, nurseries, greenhouses, parks, and agricultural environments, focusing on tasks like planting, pruning, watering, and harvesting plants.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

A qualification in horticulture or a related field is required. Relevant qualifications include certificates or diplomas in horticulture, agriculture, or plant science, which are offered by colleges and training institutions. Practical experience through internships, apprenticeships, or entry-level roles is highly valuable. Knowledge of plant biology, soil science, and pest management is beneficial.

What the Work Involves:

Planting and transplanting flowers, shrubs, trees, and crops. Watering, fertilizing, and pruning plants to promote healthy growth. Monitoring plant health and identifying pests, diseases, and nutrient deficiencies. Operating and maintaining horticultural equipment such as mowers, trimmers, and irrigation systems. Harvesting crops and preparing them for sale or distribution. Assisting in landscape design and maintenance for parks, gardens, and public spaces. Implementing sustainable practices and techniques to conserve resources and promote biodiversity.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

The demand for horticultural workers is steady, with opportunities available in various sectors, including agriculture, landscaping, and environmental conservation. With experience and further training, horticultural workers can advance to supervisory or managerial positions, specialise in areas like arboriculture or landscape design, or start their own businesses.

Average annual Salary - £19,500 - £24,000

Typical weekly hours – 40 – 45 per week

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

This job may be suited to individuals who enjoy working outdoors, have a passion for plants and the environment. Horticultural workers need to be detail-oriented, patient, and capable of performing manual labour. Good problem-solving skills and the ability to work independently or as part of a team are also important.

Money/Wage Guide:

Entry-level horticultural workers can expect to earn around £19,500 to £20,000 per year. With experience and specialisation, earnings can increase to £24,000.

Related Opportunities:

- Arborist:
- Landscape Gardener:
- Agricultural Technician
- Conservation Officer:

Further Information:

Royal Horticultural Society (RHS):

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/>

Horticultural Trades Association (HTA): <https://hta.org.uk/>