

Area of Interest: Construction and Skilled Trades

Horticulture Techniques - Apprenticeship

Ontario College Certificate

Program Code: 1411X01FWO

24 Weeks

Ottawa Campus

Our Program

Become a journeyperson in the horticultural industry.

This apprenticeship program is designed to provide individuals working in the industry, who want to pursue a career in horticulture, with theoretical principles and practical trade skills developed by industry to become a recognized horticultural technician. The program fulfills the on-the-job and in-school requirements of the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD) and supports apprentices in completing their Red Seal Certificate of Qualification exam to become a Landscape Horticulturist.

Applicants to the Horticulture Techniques - Apprenticeship Ontario College Certificate program must:

- be currently employed in the trade
- be formally registered as apprentices with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD)
- have a valid Offer of Classroom Training from the MLTSD that includes a Ministry Client ID and approved Class Number

Eligibility is determined by the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.

If you are considering a future as a Horticultural Technician, you may work with green infrastructure on private, commercial or government properties. Opportunities exist in all parts of the industry from production and maintenance to landscape installation, retail and supply firms. Graduates may also become self-employed.

To learn more about apprenticeships, visit ontario.ca/page/skilled-trades for detailed information.

For Registered Apprentices: The in-school portion of the program consists of two 12-week sessions (Basic and Advanced). Students take courses in workplace safety, plant maintenance and identification, landscape construction, quote preparation, equipment maintenance, irrigation and turf management.

Employment

Graduates may be employed as horticultural technicians working with green infrastructure on private, commercial or government properties. Opportunities exist in all parts of the industry from production and maintenance to landscape installation, retail and supply firms. Graduates may also become self-employed.

Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Assist in the application of the basic principles of plant, soil and environmental sciences to complete work in horticulture and landscaping.
- Apply the basic practical horticulture skills to the production of plant materials, including herbaceous plants, woody plants, edibles and turf.

- Apply the basic principles of design and environmental sustainability to horticulture and landscaping.
- Assist in the implementation of basic maintenance procedures for plants, property, and equipment.
- Apply knowledge of plant identification, usage, and maintenance criteria to horticulture and landscaping.
- Assist with the creation of routine horticultural and landscaping plans that promote healthy ecosystems and avoid environmental damage.
- Apply the principles and practical skills of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to indoor and outdoor plants.
- Assist in the effective planning, implementation, and conclusion of horticultural and landscaping projects.
- Apply health and safety standards and best practices to workplaces.
- Act in a professional manner, maintain professional relationships, and communicate effectively with clients, co-workers, supervisors, and others.

Program of Study

Level: 01	Courses	Hours
HOR3625	Trade Practices - Safety, Tools and Equipment	48.0
HOR3626	Work and Project Organization	24.0
HOR3627	Communication Skills	24.0
HOR3628	Horticultural Principles-Plant Science	60.0
HOR3629	Environmental Principles: Soil-Water Environmental Stewardship	36.0
HOR3630	Pre-Construction Activities	30.0
HOR3631	Hardscape Installation and Maintenance	48.0
HOR3632	Softscape Installation and Maintenance - Turf	30.0
HOR3633	Softscape Installation and Maintenance	48.0
HOR3634	First Aid and CPR Training	12.0
Level: 02	Courses	Hours
HOR3635	Site Preparation and Protection	48.0
HOR3636	Project Preparation	24.0
HOR3637	Marketing and Sales	24.0
HOR3638	Plant Identification and Management	42.0
HOR3639	Environmental Practices	48.0
HOR3640	Hardscape Structures Installation and Maintenance	48.0
HOR3641	Plant Health Care-Pest, Diseases & Invasive Species Management	30.0
HOR3642	Interior Landscape Installation and Maintenance	24.0

HOR3643	Green Infrastructure Installation and Maintenance	48.0
HOR3644	Mentoring and Training Techniques	24.0

Fees for the 2025/2026 Academic Year

Tuition Fees: \$600 per level.

Incidental Fee: \$150 per level.

Information Technology Fee: \$65.79 per level.

Admission Requirements for the 2026/2027 Academic Year

College Eligibility

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent; OR
- Mature Student status (19 years of age or older and without a high school diploma at the start of the program). Eligibility may be determined by academic achievement testing, for which a fee will be charged.

Program Eligibility

- Prospective students must be registered apprentices with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development and must be a member in good standing with Skilled Trades Ontario (STO).
- Eligibility is determined by the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.

Admission Requirements for 2025/2026 Academic Year

College Eligibility

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent; OR
- Mature Student status (19 years of age or older and without a high school diploma at the start of the program).

Program Eligibility

- Prospective students must be registered apprentices with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development and must be a member in good standing with Skilled Trades Ontario (STO).
- Eligibility is determined by the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.

Application Information

HORTICULTURE TECHNIQUES - APPRENTICESHIP **Program Code 1411X01FWO**

Registration for Apprenticeship programs takes place through the Ministry of Labour, Training, and Skills Development.

For further information, contact:

Ministry of Labour, Training, and Skills Development
347 Preston Street 3rd Floor, Suite 310
Ottawa, ON
K1S 3H8

<https://www.skilledtradesontario.ca/apprenticeship/starting-your-apprenticeship/>
Telephone: 613-731-7100

Toll-free: 1-877-221-1220

Additional Information

Landscape Ontario offers support and help with registration. Contact mailto:info@horticulturetechnician.ca or Sally Harvey at 1-800-265-5656 ext. 315 or mailto:sharvey@landscapeontario.com.

Contact Information

Program Coordinator(s)

- Tommy Wingreen, mailto:wingret@algonquincollege.com, 613-727-4723, ext. 7138

Course Descriptions

HOR3625 Trade Practices - Safety, Tools and Equipment

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to describe jurisdictional regulations relevant to the trade, safe work practices for responding to on-site conditions, hazards, and emergencies and the operation and maintenance of safety equipment; maintain safety records, driving logs and work records and use and maintain hand tools, power tools and vehicles/ motorized equipment, trailers and attachments used in the landscape and horticultural trade.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3626 Work and Project Organization

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to describe the use of trade-related documentation and reference material and identify processes to conduct site assessments and procedures for receiving, organizing, storing, transporting plants, materials, tools and equipment.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3627 Communication Skills

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to demonstrate effective communication practices including, listening, speaking, reading and writing required to function effectively as part of a crew/team in the workplace.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3628 Horticultural Principles-Plant Science

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to describe plant morphology and characteristics, environmental factors and soil characteristics that affect plant growth and development; identify 80 ornamental landscape plants common to Ontario using the required nomenclature, the cultural requirements and pests and diseases as they relate to each plant; describe procedures to prune landscape plants and demonstrate sexual and asexual plant propagation methods.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3629 Environmental Principles: Soil-Water Environmental Stewardship

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to describe the principles of environmental stewardship as it relates to soil and water.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3630 Pre-Construction Activities

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to interpret information from landscape drawings and documentation related to site preparation and identify the requirements for preparing construction sites including performing calculations used in the horticulture industry and use of standard measuring devices.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3631 Hardscape Installation and Maintenance

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to demonstrate the installation and maintenance of landscape paving, steps and retaining walls (natural and precast materials) according to jurisdictional codes and regulations.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3632 Softscape Installation and Maintenance - Turf

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to describe the procedures to install sod and turf from seed and maintain grass/turf grass including monitoring turf grass quality, mowing, applying amendments and identifying and correcting grass/turfgrass problems according to industry standards and jurisdictional requirements.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3633 Softscape Installation and Maintenance

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to describe the procedures to install and maintain exterior softscape - plants (woody, herbaceous and annual plants) and materials (growing media and mulch) and demonstrate pruning techniques for young and established shrubs, groundcovers and vines based on the Canadian Landscape Standard (CLS) and jurisdictional regulations.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3634 First Aid and CPR Training

On successful completion of the reportable subject, the apprentice is able to demonstrate first aid and CPR techniques to respond to emergencies in the workplace.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3635 Site Preparation and Protection

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to demonstrate procedures used to perform site assessment which includes, interpretation of documentation pertaining to site assessment, assessment of site conditions for protection, identification of existing and proposed grading and drainage patterns and inspection of site-specific environmental conditions and the evaluation of soil erosion.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3636 Project Preparation

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to explain the planning activities required to prepare for landscape horticultural projects, including the use of documentation and reference material, interpretation of plans, specifications, the purpose for maintaining records and describe procedures for ordering and organizing plants, materials and equipment.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3637 Marketing and Sales

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to describe procedures for controlling inventory, selling services and methods for developing and maintaining customer relations.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3638 Plant Identification and Management

Upon successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to identify 120 ornamental landscape plants using the required nomenclature and stating the cultural requirements for each and understanding pests and diseases as they relate to plant selection and demonstrate tree pruning techniques.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3639 Environmental Practices

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to describe landscaping practices that support environmental stewardship to develop, conserve, preserve, protect and reclaim natural habitats and ecosystems to sustain a healthy environment.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3640 Hardscape Structures Installation and Maintenance

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to demonstrate the installation of landscape structures, irrigation systems, low voltage lighting water features and describe the procedures to repair hardscape and maintain irrigation systems according to industry standards and jurisdictional regulations.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3641 Plant Health Care-Pest, Diseases & Invasive Species Management

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to identify nutrient deficiencies, pests, diseases and disorders, explain the care and treatment of plants, describe Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles and interpret relevant legislation and jurisdictional requirements.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3642 Interior Landscape Installation and Maintenance

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to describe the

procedures for installing and maintaining interior landscapes.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3643 Green Infrastructure Installation and Maintenance

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to describe procedures to install and maintain green infrastructure, including applications for maximizing green space and permeable surfaces, installation of erosion control materials, green roofs and walls and rainwater and stormwater management systems.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

HOR3644 Mentoring and Training Techniques

On successful completion of this reportable subject, the apprentice is able to describe communication and mentoring techniques and strategies for enhancing personal and team development.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none