



## Outdoor Plant Production (Crops I)

<b>Duration (approx)</b>	100 hours
<b>Qualification</b>	Statement of Attainment

This course started live as a Crops course developed by John Mason in 1980. Over the years it has been revised and upgraded many times with input from over 20 horticulturists in both the UK and Australia.

In 1995 it was revised to satisfy curriculum for a nationally accredited Advanced Diploma in Horticulture (Australia). In 2003 it underwent a further major revision to align with the RHS Diploma in Horticulture Module "Outdoor Plant Production".

Today's course is very much up to date and an excellent foundation for any type of outdoor plant production.

### Lesson Structure

There are 10 lessons in this course:

1. Crop Production Systems
  - To explain different cropping systems and their appropriate application for the production of different types of crops
2. Organic Crop Production
  - To evaluate and explain organic plant production, and the requirements in at least two different countries, to achieve organic certification.
3. Soils and Nutrition
  - To understand the function of soils and plant nutrition in outdoor cropping systems.
4. Nursery Stock Production
  - Describe the commercial production of a range of nursery stock.
5. Tree Fruit Production
  - Describe the commercial production of a range of tree fruit crops.
6. Soft Fruits Production
  - To develop an understanding of the techniques used to produce a range of soft fruits.

GARDEN DESIGN



ACADEMY

7. Vegetable Production

- To develop an understanding of the techniques used to grow a range of vegetables.

8. Cut Flower Production

- To develop an understanding of the commercial production of outdoor cut flowers.

9. Herbs, Nuts and Miscellaneous Crops

- To develop an understanding of the commercial production of herbs, nuts and other miscellaneous crops.

10. Crop Production Risk Assessment

- To understand the risks that may occur in outdoor crop production.

Each lesson culminates in an assignment which is submitted to the school, marked by the school's tutors and returned to you with any relevant suggestions, comments, and if necessary, extra reading.

## Aims

- Explain different cropping systems and their appropriate application for the production of different types of crops.
- Evaluate and explain organic plant production, and the requirements in at least two different countries, to achieve organic certification.
- Explain the function of soils and plant nutrition in outdoor cropping systems.
- Describe the commercial production of a range of nursery stock.
- Describe the commercial production of a range of tree fruit crops.
- Explain techniques used to produce a range of soft fruits.
- Explain techniques used to grow a range of vegetables.
- Explain the commercial production of outdoor-grown cut flowers.
- Describe the commercial production of herbs, nuts and other miscellaneous crops.
- Identify the risks that may occur in outdoor crop production.