

Free or very cheap resources for horticulturists

Web addresses change frequently, if the link doesn't work try Googling it. Some resources may require creating an account or joining a group (e.g. Facebook). Use your common sense with the links here, as with all information on the internet, check other sources before accepting something as fact.

Make notes for yourself as you go, as if you were studying. If you dislike or disagree with the source, examine why you do, make a case for and against.

General

Some free courses here: <https://www.rbge.org.uk/learn/online-courses/>

Kew Mutual Improvement Soc, not free but cheap lectures:

<https://www.kew.org/learning/talks-and-lectures/kew-mutual-improvement-society>

Free app that enables you to access a vast range of books and magazines using your library ticket. <https://www.overdrive.com/apps/libby/>

Some free courses among the costly ones: <https://www.gardenmasterclass.org/videos>

Information on plant health, importing and exporting

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plant-health-controls#current-plant-health-issues>

Podcasts : <https://rootsandall.co.uk/> ,

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/about-the-rhs/publications/podcasts> ,

<https://gardenorganic.org.uk/podcast> , <https://www.talkingheadspodcast.co.uk/> ,

<https://thewildlifegardenpodcast.podbean.com/> , <https://talking-dirty.captivate.fm/>,

Try also: Your local gardening society or club will have talks for a very reasonable cost.

Plant identification

Wild plants <https://bsbi.org/plant-id-getting-started>

Facebook Group, you will need to apply to join:

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/586029354781067>

Free downloads of RHS Trials bulletins:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/trials-awards/plant-trials/growerguides>

Try also: visit your local garden centre and see how many plants you can identify without looking at the label. Try this every month and note how the plants change.

Techniques

How to draw plants <https://johnmuirlaws.com/drawing-plants/>

Try also: search YouTube for 'How to sharpen secateurs', 'How to grow sweetpeas'

Writing and thoughts

Often argumentative <https://thinkinggardens.co.uk/good-garden-articles/>

<https://thinkinggardens.co.uk/good-garden-books/>

Try also: online lists of 'best books on X' (garden design, permaculture etc) and look for them using Libby.

Therapeutic horticulture

Free starter courses: <https://thrivelearn.org.uk/learning/learning-and-information/>

Try also: start here <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/health-and-wellbeing> and follow your interests.

Climate and Environment

Free report makes a good starting point to explore these issues:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/gardening-in-a-changing-world/climate-change>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/environment-and-conservation/2019/11/thirsty-future-ahead-climate-change-explodes-plant-growth>

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2021/dec/04/why-climate-change-gardening-means-breaking-all-the-rules>

Organic/peat-free/wildlife-friendly

Various events, some free: <https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/events>

Wild about gardens: <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-gardens> (Kent based, but information applies in a wider context, check your local Trust).

Free peat-free growing mini-course: <https://www.forpeatsake.org.uk/>

Conservation

Get to know your local gardens <https://londongardenstrust.org/>

Specialist resources on Gardens Trust conservation issues
<https://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/>

Wild plant conservation: <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk>

Cultivated plant conservation, home of the National Plant Collections:
<https://www.plantheritage.org.uk/>

Try also: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/plant-conservation-and-protection>

Types of garden

Brief introduction:
https://www.theenglishgarden.co.uk/expert-advice/design-solutions/choose_a_garden_style/

Japanese gardens: https://jgs.org.uk/aspects_of_the_japanese_garden/

Mediterranean gardens: <https://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org/>

NGS Virtual visits: <https://ngs.org.uk/virtual-garden-visits/>

Garden design

<https://www.successfulgardendesigner.com/free-classes>

Learn SketchUp: <https://www.sketchup.com/plans-and-pricing/sketchup-free>

Try also: A lot of resources on YouTube of variable quality! Start here:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheMiddlesizedgardenCoUk> and then explore.

Garden history

Brief timeline of English garden history with links for further info:

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/histories/gardens-through-time/>

<https://gardenmuseum.org.uk/>

<https://gardenmuseum.org.uk/online-resources/>

Ignore the course, but use the course outline and suggested reading here to start off an exploration of garden history:

<https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/english-landscape-gardens-1650-to-the-present-day-online>

Try also: <https://www.parksandgardens.org/>,

Political/social

RHS Ornamental Horticulture Roundtable :

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/ornamental-horticulture-roundtable>

Try also: <https://hta.org.uk/news-current-issues/government/documents-and-briefings.html>