

## CS 30 Chainsaw Cross Cutting Certificate, Modesta Peckaityte, Trainee Gardener at MacRobert Trust Gardens, Cromar, Scotland



With assessor Jim Plumer after the assessment, 11<sup>th</sup> of November, 2016

I would like to say thank you to Professional Gardeners Trust for a bursary of £290. Currently, I am training as a professional gardener at the gorgeous MacRobert Trust Garden in Cromar, Scotland. I started this position after completing a two year HND at SRUC and RBGE in Horticulture and

Plantsmanship. On gaining the

position with the MacRobert Trust, I was delighted to be informed that I would have the opportunity to do a CS 30 chainsaw cross cutting certificate. The MacRobert Trust have offered to fund 50% of the training cost, the other half was needed to acquire safety equipment crucial not only for this training, but for further work in the gardens. Professional Gardener Trust contributed greatly and helped to purchase high quality safety wellies, trousers, helmet with ear defenders, face protection and chainsaw gloves.

The two-day training course took place at Douneside House Gardens and was provided by Ringlink. I started my training on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 with the assessment taking place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. Our instructor Brian Jarret, a professional Lantra awards instructor, had an extensive 20 years of commercial experience in arboriculture.

Firstly, Brian provided us with Lantra awards Chainsaw Maintenance and Cross – cutting workbook and assessment guidelines. The workbook is a great way to follow correct procedures while maintaining and operating the chainsaw. After that we were introduced to the required PPE, health and safety, industry good practice guidance and other regulations that are put in place to ensure safe, efficient and environmentally conscious methods of chainsaw operation. We were told how to

provide risk assessments and follow emergency procedures in case of an accident at work.



Chainsaw maintenance workshop:  
cleaning the air filter

After the points above were discussed we moved into the tool shed where we were taught how to correctly maintain the chainsaw. The training included correct refuelling, safety features of the chainsaw, how to check and replace the air, fuel and oil filters, and most importantly – chain sharpening and refitting, and how to check the chain bar, brake and clutch for defects. Correct maintenance of these

components ensures safe and efficient use of the machine. I was shown how to clean and oil parts that require lubrication, and additionally, how to change the spark plug and starter cord.

On the second day of training we set off to gardens yard. I was extremely excited to finally start learning how to cross cut the timber. The wood was provided by the MacRobert Trust Estate and garden staff and varied in length and width. After the training – it will be used as fire wood.

Firstly, we were shown how to start the chainsaw from the cold and perform the safety checks such as performance of chain brake, on/off button working, efficient lubrication of chain and look for any chain slacking. After, we went through the procedure of starting the chainsaw from warm and safety steps involved. I was shown correct posture while cutting and instructed how to work safely around other people. Finally, we were introduced to different cross cutting techniques such as boring, straight and reduction cuts. But most importantly I was shown how to correctly cut timber laying in different positions and it was explained to us how to recognise the tension and compression of the wood. Wood tension is found on the outside edge of strained timber and when cut, the sides can open quickly which may cause serious injury. Compression is found on the inside edge of strained timber and when cut, the sides close, which will result in the chainsaw being jammed. I was instructed on procedures involved in relief of the machine if such a situation occurs.

I spent the rest of the day working side by side with Brain and learning these different cutting techniques. He helped to arranged the wood in different position and provided brilliant support and training,

Knowing that I might not get the chance to re-do the training any time soon if I fail due to financial strains made me slightly nervous on the day of assessment. I have worked as a self-employed gardener before and was frequently asked to perform chainsaw work, and additionally, The MacRobert Trust gardens team have plans for *Rhododendron* and fallen wood clearance over the winter. I wanted and needed this certificate to be able to do work in the future. However, the assessor Jim Plumber was a lovely and patient man. He calmed me down and we got on with the examination: maintenance first and the cross cutting after. And three hours later I was happy to be told my performance was excellent and I was awarded a pass.



It has been a week and a half since the assessment today and I just had my first full day of chainsaw operation under close supervision of the training gardeners of MacRobert Trust gardens team. I would have not had a chance to undertake this training without the bursary from Professional Gardeners Trust. The possession of CS30 certificate now enables me to perform tree work frequently in this woody Scottish garden. Thank you once again for your great contribution to my future career. Pictured: first day

using chainsaw and taking down *Rhododendron*