

## **Fay Sizer , spraying course, PG Trust report**

My name is Fay Sizer, I'm currently a HBGTP student at Gravetye manor in West Sussex. I started here in June 2016 my current contract will end in September but there is a strong chance that I am staying and becoming a member of the gardening team. Previous to this I was a self-employed gardener for 5 years and during this time I studied the RHS Level 2.

As part of its Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust Fund, the PG Trust offered to pay £480 towards the total £626.50 cost of the PA1 and PA6 spraying course, which I completed at Plumpton College in Sussex in April 2017.

The training consisted of both theory and practical elements. For the theory side of the course (PA1), the learning was all classroom based this took place over one day and involved learning about legislation and regulations regarding chemicals, practical applications, the relevant organisations and health and safety. It was useful for me to learn about the responsibility for handling and storing and disposing of potentially harmful chemicals. I feel I've got a good understanding of the different nozzles, labels and warning symbols.

On the practical side, the training focused on reducing the risk of contamination of the environment, the public and myself, as well as practical training on using the equipment. I found this element most rewarding for me as a student, especially the calibration of the chemicals to produce an accurate mix and learning about the spraying technique.

I went into the course not confident about my ability to calculate volumes accurately, but as the training progressed I found I was more than capable of following the formulas and producing the correct mix.

I felt the trainer was clear and happy to revisit topics that the class found confusing or wanted refreshing on. He also gave clear instructions on how to approach the exam.

These certificates will be essential for me to carry out spraying duties in my current job in a responsible and legal manner, as well as helping me be more employable in the future after my training programme finishes in September. A recent job search showed that most employers now require the PA1 and PA6 qualification, so these certificates will be essential for me to realise my ambition to become a head gardener.

With kind regards

Fay Sizer