

My name is Jack Greenwood from Haslemere, Surrey. I have my own garden maintenance company and work throughout Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire. I also volunteer at West Dean Gardens in West Sussex and was told about the Professional Gardeners Trust by the garden manager, Sarah Wain.

I was recently lucky enough to receive a Worshipful Company of Gardeners award for £386 for my training in the Safe Application of Pesticides Certificates PA1 and PA6.

The training was held at Petworth Park on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of February and was provided by the Surrey Horticultural Training Group.

They did a fantastic job of explaining everything clearly to all of us on the course. Personally this is a completely new area of Horticulture to me and I'm so glad that I got to find out more about the use of Pesticides so that I can integrate that knowledge into my future work.

Most of the training was held indoors (which was a relief as the weather was quite bad) but when we did go outside and do the practical side of the training, it was easily followed as there was only a small group of us.

Throughout the whole three days there was a really nice atmosphere between us all, everyone asking questions and genuinely interested in the subject.

At the end of the three days, we each took a multiple choice exam on a laptop for the PA1 qualification which we all passed.

I then went back for my PA6 assessment on a freezing cold Monday morning and was met by the assessor who took me through what I had learnt, step by step. After a chilly hour or so, he let me know that I had passed! Hurrah!!

The training has been a fantastic aid to my career as it means that I can now safely apply pesticides where needed, but more importantly I now have the knowledge needed to know where pesticides are not needed.

I have my own garden maintenance company at the moment but I think in a few years I would like to work in a large private garden or estate and this training has definitely helped towards that goal.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to the Professional Gardeners Trust for giving me this great opportunity. They have been so brilliant all the way throughout the process and I highly recommend getting in touch if you are in Horticulture but can't afford to pay for some of the training. Thank you PGTrust!

