

**PA1/PA6 Training at Trentham Gardens Funded Generously by the  
Professional Gardeners Trust**



PA6 Training

I would like to thank you so much for the award you have given, it means so much to me and my career. I am currently on a one-year placement with the Historic and Botanic Garden Trainee Programme at Trentham Gardens. I am at the beginning of my garden career after changing careers from serving in the Armed Forces. My award is for £400 to gain NPTC City and Guilds Safe Application of Pesticide certificates PA1 and PA6 funded so generously from a donation from the National Garden Scheme. Below I am happy to inform you how my training went and how much it benefits me.

I took the PA1/PA6 training at Trentham Gardens along with some of my fellow colleagues. Les our instructor from Reaseheath college came on the Monday to teach us our PA1. This was theory-based training consisting of current laws and legislation, product label information, personal protective equipment, storage and record requirements, safe disposal and personal and environmental protection. In the evenings I revised what I had been taught so I would be ready for the PA1 test on Wednesday.

On the Tuesday Les came back to teach us our PA6 training. This training was both theory and practical training. It was a good day and I learnt so much from Les. We went through Legal and safety regulations, environmental impact issues, how to read and interpret a product label, pre-use inspection of the applicator and calibration, how to operate the applicator effectively and post operation procedures.

After spending the evening revising I took my PA1 test on the Wednesday, I felt confident going into the test. The test was a multiple-choice test on a laptop brought in by our assessor called Brian who came to Trentham Gardens also from Reaseheath college. My test went well, and I passed with an overall percentage of 90%.

I then had a couple of evenings to prepare for PA6 test which I had on the Friday. This test was a practical test with Brian who also asked me questions as we did the test. The test went very well, and I enjoyed putting what I learnt into practise. I passed, and my assessor wrote on my result slip 'an excellent assessment displaying a high level of knowledge and practical ability'.

I am so grateful that the Professional Gardeners Trust has given me this award, it will help me progress with my gardening career so much. Being one of the big gardening qualifications employers look for on a CV. I am hoping it will help me be able to acquire a job at Trentham Gardens when my HBGTP one-year placement is up.

I would like to thank you all again that you had faith in me to give me this award. I will always be grateful, and I will not let this funding go to waste. I am looking forward to getting lots of spraying experience at Trentham and putting my qualification to use.

Thankyou

Michael King