

# Professional Gardeners Trust Report

AWARD £750

ANUPAMA BALDWIN|SURREY GARDENER

PRACTICAL HORTICULTURE LEVEL 2 RHS CERTIFICATE

33 WEEKS P/T, SEPT 2018- JULY 2019, MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE

REFERENCE CAN BE SUPPLIED BY JULIE JACOB, COURSE TEAM LEADER, MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE



Double digging!

## About the course:

The course did not have any entry level requirements and covered several different modules such as soil testing, seed sowing, plant propagation, pruning types, ground preparation, identification of plants, weeds, pests, diseases and a module on safe operation of machinery, including strimmers, hedge trimmers, and mowers. The course was delivered by three different, knowledgeable tutors, and a few very helpful technicians were available to ask relevant questions in the greenhouses!

## About the people:

We were a group of sixteen men and women of different ages and backgrounds, and we bonded extremely well. Some of us were already in the industry - either gardening or landscaping - some were studying for personal knowledge for their own gardens, some were volunteering or looking for a career change. We even had a garden designer delivering her second design at Hampton Court!

## The skills I have gained:

My plant knowledge has improved extensively, and I have been able to utilize the knowledge to identify many more weeds, trees, and herbaceous perennials. I have also used some of the many propagation techniques we learnt at home and with some degree of success! I found the wisdom of the technicians to be an unexpected, but invaluable, educational resource. My awareness of potential plant deficiencies and ability to identify pests has also progressed with some confidence. I hope I demonstrated competent use of several types of tools and other equipment. My passion for horticulture continues and I am increasingly able to use of the terminology that comes with the subject!

## Conclusion:

I'm extremely grateful to the PGT for my award to study this course and to Grayshaw and Yeo for advising me of the award. Due to the friendships we all developed on the RHS course, I am pleased to say I have been able to provide employment, participate in a 'Lifestyle' garden design at Hampton Court, and take advantage of a job offer through Merrist Wood.

## Potential areas where the course could be improved:

The module on safe operation of machinery was interesting however having already had personal experience in my day to day maintenance rounds, this was not an area I was looking to expand upon. This is due to the size of my vehicle, my physical strength, and the monetary investment. Considering this, I would have preferred to have the option of choosing other modules with an insight into herbs, plant selection, fruiting trees, or perhaps the basics of garden design. I was not the only student to feel like this and, at times, one felt some of the points were laboured and could have been condensed, perhaps introducing an extra subject.

## The future:

The offer was an opportunity I could not resist-- to advise upon a plant scheme. I have joined a wholesale nursery, purchased the plants, and am currently delivering the brief as it is a work in progress. My clients are very happy so far. This has all been as a direct consequence of the RHS course. I plan to do some further study courses and am currently researching my options. Our WhatsApp Group continues to be utilized!

First plant scheme!



