

Amanda Clay

Self-employed gardener, Cornwall

Cost of course: £1246

Award: £1246 Lironi Award, funded by Perennial.

RHS Level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture studied at Duchy College Rosewarne.

Having completed the RHS Level 2 Diploma in the Principles and Practices of Horticulture at Duchy College in 2017-18, I knew to expect a high quality course taught by passionate people, with great on-site facilities.

I found the plant identification part of the course particularly useful, as expanding my knowledge of different plants has enabled me to be more knowledgeable in my clients' gardens. Another aspect of the course which I found particularly useful was the development of one and five year maintenance plans for gardens, as I feel this will help me to manage my time in my clients' gardens more effectively. I did feel that some aspects of the course were quite similar to what we studied at Level 2, particularly in relation to propagation, but it was useful to consolidate these skills. I also enjoyed the opportunity to undertake personal project work, including saving and sowing my own seeds.

As a result of the course I now feel more confident in my plant knowledge when undertaking work in clients' gardens. As my background is in vegetable and fruit growing, I really felt a lack of knowledge in more ornamental plants, and I feel this gap has lessened as a result of the course.

I am looking forward to further developing my career in horticulture, and am very grateful to the Professional Gardeners Trust and Perennial to have been given the award.