



# 1: THE USE OF HORTICULTURE

## The Standard

The horticultural project selects and uses plants and horticultural activities that meet the needs of its clients, facilitating good horticultural practices and providing variety and choice.

Criteria	Sufficient evidence is in place State what it is	Further evidence required State action needed to complete	Examples of evidence This is for guidance only
<b>1.1</b> <b>Staff are competent</b> <b>In the area of</b> <b>horticulture relevant to the</b> <b>activities they deliver</b>			Staff expertise, staff CV's and certificates, staff skills audit, Continuing Professional Development records, quality of horticulture work products, photos, video, customer satisfaction questionnaires, thank you letters, awards received (Flower Shows), evidence of commercial success
<b>1.2</b> <b>The horticultural programme offered provides a good range of opportunities to clients, with as much variety and choice as the aims of the project can accommodate</b>			Planning records, activity programme, scheme of work, work schedule or similar. Client work records, action plans, photos, diaries, testimonies



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#### Rationale

In order to use horticulture effectively as a therapeutic medium, a practitioner needs to have appropriate knowledge and experience. Knowing what will and won't work horticulturally enables you to maximise success for an individual, to choose the most appropriate plants and tasks, and to adapt a task or growing method.

Tasks should be designed to enable a person to engage and participate, and to work as independently as possible. This may require careful preparation of the working environment, specific task or plant selection, or specialist support for an individual. The key to such specialist and 'mindful' use of horticulture, is in knowing how the horticulture will react to the adaptations you need to make, and creating a balance between horticultural success and individual client benefit.

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#### Essential definitions

**“plants and horticultural activities” means:**

- Sessions, tasks, jobs or work that are primarily concerned with using, growing or tending the living medium of plants. All aspects of amenity and production horticulture, conservation and estate skills would come under this remit. Aspects of projects that are concerned with craft, woodwork etc. would not come under this remit.

**“good horticultural practices” means:**

- That the horticulture practised is fit for the purpose. The emphasis of this standard is on how horticulture is used as a medium, rather than how horticulture practices and quality compare with industry standards. There is a wide spectrum of horticultural expectations across different projects, dependant upon the aims of the project and the skills of the clients. Whether the horticulture practised consists of table-top activities or commercial contract work, this standard prompts you to ask the question: ‘Am I using horticulture effectively to meet my client’s needs?’

**“providing variety and choice” means:**

- As full a range of plants and tasks as possible are used with clients. Thought is given to extending the range of horticulture tasks into the winter, to provide interest and continuity of work for clients. Clients are involved in as many tasks as possible, with staff enabling access and independence. The standard acknowledges the fact that the extent of variety and choice varies depending upon the aims of the project. Restrictions on variety and choice may be imposed by the remit of a training specification, the setting of the project, or if clients are involved in commercial contract work.



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#### Benefits of achieving this standard:

- Staff are knowledgeable and feel confident and comfortable using horticulture as a medium to benefit clients
- Appropriate horticultural techniques are taught and practised
- Work tasks are relevant and relate to each clients' needs and goals
- Clients are offered some choice and variety regarding tasks, and the opportunity to develop within their capabilities
- Tasks are designed to be accessible and engaging, involving clients in all key aspects of the work
- Offering as full a range of horticultural experiences and opportunities as possible, should enable each individual to find something that they enjoy and benefit from.