

PRODUCTION HORTICULTURE WORKER

EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

ENTRY LEVEL -

These two qualifications are suited to VET in Schools, labour market and environmental skills programs.

AHC20320 - Certificate II in Production Horticulture

This qualification describes the skills and knowledge for supporting job roles in the production horticulture and floriculture industry including field worker, picker, pruner and packer. Individuals with this qualification carry out routine tasks under supervision where the work is predictable and structured with limited judgement requirements.

or

AHC21716 - Certificate II in Permaculture

This qualification provides an occupational outcome in permaculture. Work would be carried out under general guidance and supervision. This qualification provides a range of technical skills and knowledge in supporting food growing programs and community programs and is suited to learners with an interest in permaculture as a practical solution for sustainable living.

TRADE LEVEL

AHC30620 - Certificate III in Production Horticulture

This qualification describes the skills and knowledge for job roles in the production horticulture and floriculture industry including field worker, seeding person, operator, irrigation maintainer, machinery maintainer and leading hand. Individuals with this qualification perform tasks involving a broad range of skills that are applied in a wide variety of contexts, which will involve discretion and judgement in selecting and operating equipment, coordinating resources and applying contingency measures during work.

AHC33920 - Certificate III in Medicinal Cannabis Cultivation and Production

This qualification reflects the roles of individuals who work as cultivation technicians in the medicinal cannabis industry. In this role, these individuals have responsibilities for undertaking a range of skilled work in controlled growing, licensed medicinal cannabis operations.

AHC40320 - Certificate IV in Production Horticulture

This qualification describes the skills and knowledge for supervisory/managerial job roles in the production horticulture industry including grower, field manager, supervisor, crop grower, plant manager, integrated pest manager, quality assurance, compliance manager and human resources manager.

Individuals with this qualification perform tasks involving technical skills, problem solving and supervisory skills to operate, monitor and improve performance of production horticulture systems and may supervise staff.

AHC50320 - Diploma of Production Horticulture

This qualification describes the skills and knowledge for specialist or managerial job roles in the production horticulture industry including owner, farm manager, head grower, crop manager, section manager, dispatch manager, sales manager, marketing manager and specialist consultants.

Individuals with this qualification will take personal responsibility and exercise autonomy in undertaking complex work. They must analyse information and exercise judgement to complete a range of advanced skilled activities.

AHC60216—Advanced Diploma of Horticulture

This qualification reflects the roles of individuals working in management roles in horticulture. Some of these roles may include supervising staff, managing finance, managing production, managing marketing or managing facilities.

For further information or advice contact

mae@agrifooditab.com.au



PRODUCTION HORTICULTURE WORKER

CAREER PATHWAYS/SPECIALISATIONS

Irrigation specialist

Works to plan, install and trouble shoot irrigation systems for greenhouses, market gardens, farms and nurseries. They calculate and calibrate sprays and plumbing to minimise waste and to support achieving optimum production and plant growth.

Plant research officer

This person specialises in selecting, monitoring and trialling new varieties of plant species to improve productivity and decrease the risk of disease. Individuals may be employed by large producers or government agencies to ensure the viability and ongoing safety of food production in Australia.

Soil analyst

This specialist studies the soil components and other growing mediums used in production horticulture. This is a vital role in the productivity of food as the nutrients in food are directly related to the nutrients provided to them during the growth cycle. This is a niche area of employment for those that are scientifically minded and enjoy analysing and problem solving.

Hydroponics specialist

Hydroponics is a system of growing plants without the use of soil. The plants are grown in a water-rich nutrient solution that contains all the necessary nutrient content for growth. Hydroponic systems are often used to grow plants that require more light than other crops, such as tomatoes and strawberries. Specialist design and set up these systems to provide maximum water efficiency and production of plants for sale.

Marketing Manager

Nursery marketing managers promote products and brands to increase sales and profit margins. They develop marketing and pricing strategies, generate new business leads, and promote products for a business. They also manage marketing budgets and analyse trends to ensure that the business is keeping up with current customer expectations.

For further information relating to this job. Search the following web sites. Either click on the logo to open the web page or click on the QR code with your app.

		
<p>Australian Society of Horticultural Scientists</p> 	<p>Green Life Industry</p> 	<p>AUSVEG</p> 
<p>Food & Primary Skills Victoria</p>	<p>For further information or advise contact Email: mae@agrifooditab.com.au</p>	 <p>MAE project</p>
<p>Food and Primary Skills Victoria</p> 		

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HINTS ON HOW TO APPLY FOR THIS JOB

The first thing to do is to look up the local food production operators and ring them or meet with them to discuss the opportunity to work in this industry. If you can't locate a producer then follow the 10 steps below that could assist you to secure work as a production horticulture worker.

1. Identify your strengths and weaknesses, especially an eye for detail and interest in botany as these are essential to being successful as a nursery worker. Completing any of the following; white card, agriculture or horticulture units of competence or gaining experience at using hand tools and basic equipment will provide the practical skills that will assist you to meet the selection criteria that employers set.
2. Decide where you want to work; are you willing to relocate to get your dream job? There may be more opportunities in cities than in regional areas.
3. Do some research, as to who the key employers are that could employ a nursery worker such as councils, commercial nurseries, parks and wildlife, large estates. Consider if you want to work indoors or outdoors and what types of production enterprise you like to work with then choose the specialisation that you most like before making enquiries to see if they will take on trainees.
4. Research information about these employers or companies that you would like to work for; find out what the entry requirements or essential criteria are that must be met; such as do you need to complete a previous qualification or have industry experience before gaining an interview?
5. Make a shortlist of potential prospective employers to contact. You may also like to chat to your job search agent or search some of the online employment agencies such as SEEK, Jobsearch, Indeed or Linked In to find job vacancies for electricians in your region.
6. Create a quality resume and include your academic achievements, experience, interests and passions.
7. Contact potential employers by writing or directly calling them to demonstrate your interest and communication skills. Prospective employers highly value self-starters and prospective career aspirants with initiative who take such steps to seek for themselves employment as an apprentice.
8. If you are still at school, you may be able to take up a school-based apprenticeship. There are opportunities available in some schools that allow you to take on a part-time apprenticeship known as a School-Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT). Ask your school if they support this government initiative and ask the employer if they would be interested in such an arrangement. SBATs are a really good way to allow you to finish school and at the same time learn and earn as an apprentice.
9. Your employer should contact the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASNs) - <https://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au> for further information on how to sign you up.
10. Sign up to your traineeship with your employer (and support of your family if you are under 18 years old) to start "learning and earning" to be a horticultural production worker.



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HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THESE RELATED JOBS?

Landscape gardener

A Landscaper, or Landscape Designer, is responsible for envisioning unique outdoor spaces and working with other landscape professionals to turn their visions into public parks and gardens for people to enjoy. Their duties include planting flowers and trees, trimming shrubbery and overseeing the installation of benches, fountains, fences and walking paths.

Horticulturist

Horticulturists have scientific knowledge in how to cultivate and propagate plants, and use this knowledge to provide technical information to fruit, vegetable, and flower growers, as well as farmers. Horticulturists also conduct pest and disease investigations and experiment with improved varieties of plants with greater resistance to disease.

Viticulturalist

Viticulturists plan, supervise and coordinate the growing of selected grape varieties for the production of wine, dried fruit or table grapes. Viticulturists spend a lot of time outdoors in vineyards, but also work indoors in laboratories, offices and grape processing facilities.

Orchardist

Plants and cultivates trees, like apple, orange, and walnut, and harvests fruit and nut crops, applying knowledge of horticulture market conditions. Determines varieties quantities of trees to be grown, acreage to be tilled and employees to be hired.

Greenkeeper

Greenkeepers are specialists that can work on any grassed surface that requires a high level of maintenance and care such as golf courses, bowling greens and other sporting surfaces. They lay, maintain and repair greens to a high level of precision to ensure a fair and even surface for participants to compete on.

Organic Farmer

An organic farmer aims to use sustainable practices. Emphasis is placed on the use of renewable resources, conservation of energy, soil and water resources and the maintenance of environmental quality. The production cycle is as closed as possible with careful use of external inputs permitted by organic certification standards.

The basic aims of organic farming are to achieve optimum quantities of produce of high nutritional quality without the use of artificial fertilisers or synthetic chemicals.



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advise contact
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