



LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURIST

Occupation Description

Landscape horticulturists design, build, and maintain both living landscapes and structural hardscapes while providing expert plant care and project management for diverse environments.

Landscape horticulturists lead environmentally responsible practices by applying specialized skills in sustainable landscape management. They focus on efficient water use and conservation, supporting biodiversity, and minimizing maintenance and resource demands, while increasingly using new technologies to improve sustainability outcomes.

Landscape horticulturists work with machinery and equipment ranging from simple hand tools to heavy equipment. They may be responsible for routine maintenance of tools and equipment. Landscape horticulturists work with a variety of products such as soils, plant health products and fuels, and must be aware of their safe use, environmental best practices and government regulations.

Some landscape horticulturists specialize in areas such as landscape design, construction and maintenance, and greenhouse, sod and nursery production. Most of the work such as landscape construction and maintenance, and snow and ice management is performed outdoors in all types of weather. The work may be strenuous and may involve activities such as lifting, climbing, carrying and bending. Employment in this trade can vary from workplace to workplace and may be seasonal and based on weather.

To meet tight production deadlines, landscape horticulturists must prioritize efficiency and effective time management. With experience and proven competence, landscape horticulturists may advance to supervisory positions or become business owners.

This standard recognizes similarities, overlaps and collaborations with the work of other tradespeople such as arborists, bricklayers/stone masons, heavy equipment operators, roofers, electricians, plumbers, gasfitters, small engine mechanics and carpenters.

For detailed information on the scope of knowledge and skills taught and assessed in this program refer to the Program Outline, available on the SkilledTradesBC website.

Pathways to Certification

In BC, an individual can become certified as a Landscape Horticulturist by completing the Landscape Horticulturist program or by challenging the certification. Apprenticeship programs are for individuals who have an employer to sponsor them and the challenge programs are for individuals who have extensive experience working in the occupation and wish to challenge the certification.

Youth can begin an apprenticeship in high school through the Youth Train in Trades or Youth Work in Trades programs. The Youth Work in Trades program is available for any trade if an employer is willing to sponsor the student. Trades offered through the Youth Train in Trades vary by region; contact your local school district to find out which technical training programs are being offered through the Youth Train in Trades program in your region.

Foundation programs, where available, provide adults and youth who do not have work experience or employer sponsorship with an opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills needed to enter the occupation. Individuals who wish to enroll in a Foundation program must register directly with the training provider.

**Recommended Education**

The following education is recommended for apprentices entering this occupation. These are not prerequisites, but rather a desired level of skill or knowledge that will contribute to success in the industry.

- Grade 10 or equivalent, including English 10, Math 10 and Science 10
- Preferred: Grade 12

SkilledTradesBC Registration

Individuals who wish to begin an apprenticeship in this program must register with SkilledTradesBC along with their sponsor. Application forms for all programs are available from the SkilledTradesBC website. Online registration is also available for most programs through the SkilledTradesBC website.

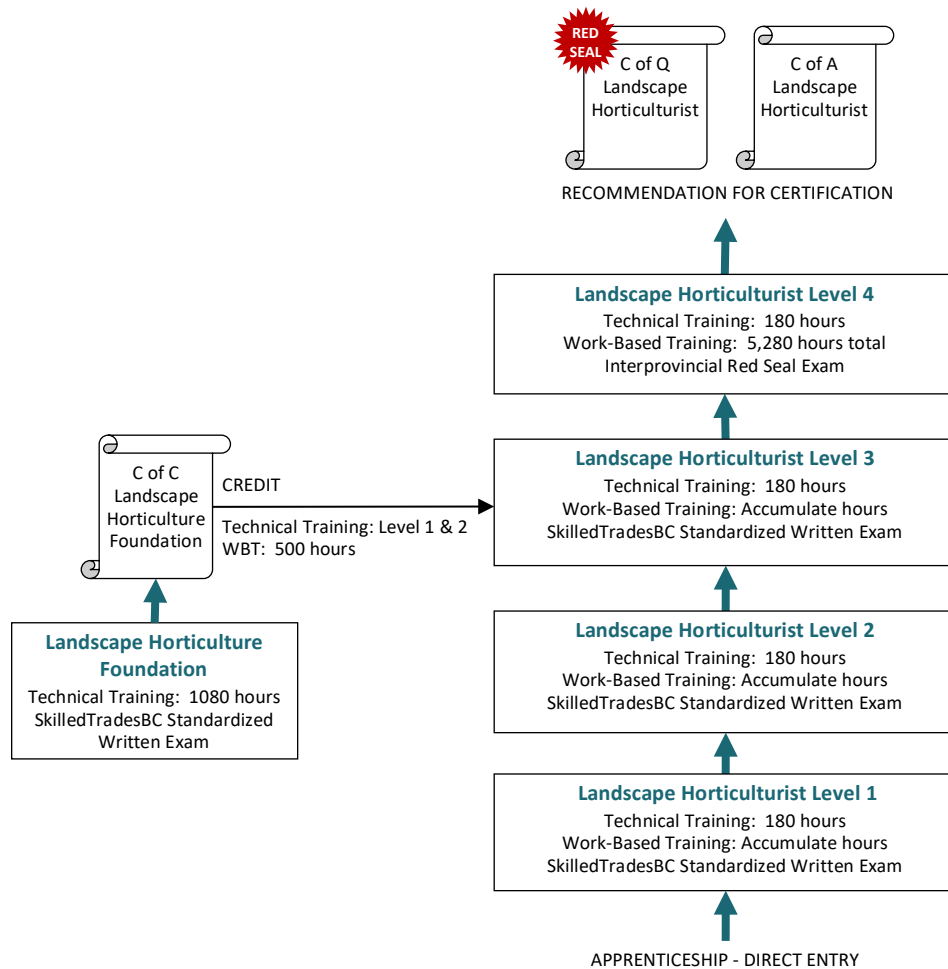
Those who wish to challenge the Landscape Horticulturist certification must complete the Landscape Horticulturist Challenge Application and submit it to SkilledTradesBC. Challenge applications are assessed for proof of workplace hours and scope of experience prior to acceptance of the individual into the Challenge pathway.



Apprenticeship Pathway

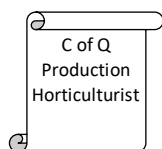
This graphic provides an overview of the Landscape Horticulturist apprenticeship pathway.

*C of Q = Certificate of Qualification
C of A = Certificate of Apprenticeship
C of C = Certificate of Completion
WBT = Work-Based Training*



CROSS-PROGRAM CREDITS

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program



Work Experience: 3,240 hours



Technical Training: None
Work-Based Training: 1,000 hours

Apprenticeship Program Standards

Credentials Awarded

- Landscape Horticulturist – Certificate of Qualification with Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement
- Landscape Horticulturist – Certificate of Apprenticeship

SkilledTradesBC Registration Prerequisites

- Agreement signed by the employer to sponsor the apprentice

Completion Requirements

Certification as a Landscape Horticulturist is awarded upon successful completion of:

Requirement

Level of Achievement Required

Technical Training

Minimum 70% in each level of technical training:

- Level 1: 180 hours and SkilledTradesBC standardized written exam
- Level 2: 180 hours and SkilledTradesBC standardized written exam
- Level 3: 180 hours and SkilledTradesBC standardized written exam
- Level 4: 180 hours

Interprovincial Red Seal Exam

- Minimum 70%

Work-Based Training

- 5,280 hours

Recommendation for Certification

- Recommendation for certification signed by the Sponsor and an individual holding credentials eligible for sign-off authority

Program Duration

Duration varies depending on how training is delivered, but the program generally takes 4 years to complete.

The technical training requirement is typically met through block-release training (full-time, at school) delivered by a SkilledTradesBC-approved training provider. It can also be met through approved alternative training models (e.g., distance education, online, part-time) and/or level challenge where these options are available.

Sign-off Authority

Credentials eligible to sign-off on the Recommendation for Certification:

- Landscape Horticulturist – Certificate of Qualification
- Landscape Horticulturist – Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement
- SkilledTradesBC-issued letter authorizing supervision and sign-off of apprentices in this occupation

Challenging a Level

The following levels of technical training can be challenged for advanced placement in this program:

Level

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3



Apprenticeship Program Standards

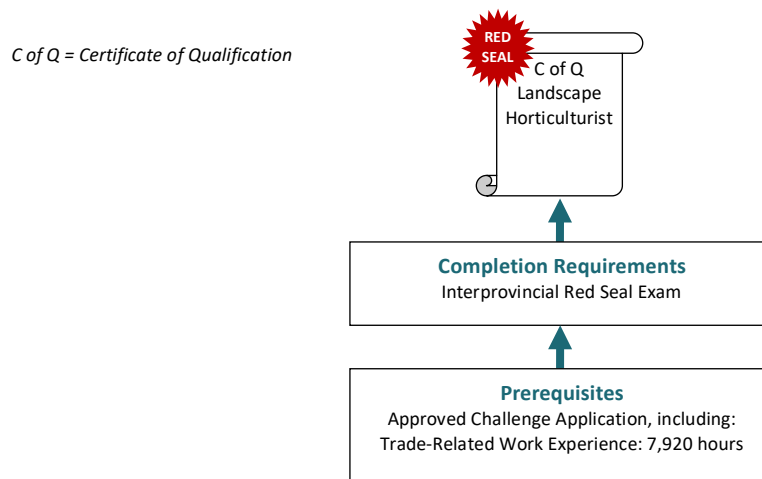
Cross-Program Credits

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program

Credential	Credit(s) Granted
Production Horticulturist – Certificate of Qualification	Work Experience: 3,240 hours
Certified Landscape Horticulturist Technician (CLHT) in Ornamental Maintenance plus one other module within the CLHT program	- Technical Training: None - Work-Based Training: 1,000 hours

Challenge Pathway

This graphic provides an overview of the Landscape Horticulturist challenge pathway.



CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program





Challenge Program Standards

Credentials Awarded

Landscape Horticulturist – Certificate of Qualification with Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement

SkilledTradesBC

Registration Prerequisites

An approved Challenge Application, which includes:

- 7,920 documented hours of directly related experience working in the occupation

Credit for Prior Learning

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are considered to have met, or partially met, the prerequisites for challenging this program:

Credential

Credit(s) Granted

Production Horticulturist – Certificate of Qualification

- Work Experience: 3,240 hours

Certified Landscape Horticulturist Technician (CLHT) in Ornamental Maintenance plus one other module within the CLHT program

- Work Experience: 1,000 hours

Completion Requirements

Certification as a Landscape Horticulturist is awarded upon successful completion of:

Requirement

Level of Achievement Required

Interprovincial Red Seal Exam

- Minimum 70%

Foundation Program

Refer to the Apprenticeship pathway credentialing model for this program to see how the Horticulture Technician Foundation program leads to apprenticeship in this trade.

Foundation Program Standards

Credentials Awarded	Landscape Horticulture– Certificate of Completion				
Enrollment Prerequisites	Contact training provider. Prerequisites vary between training institutions				
Completion Requirements	A Certificate of Completion in this program is awarded upon successful completion of: <table> <tr> <th>Requirement</th><th>Level of Achievement Required</th></tr> <tr> <td>Technical Training</td><td>Minimum 70% in: Level 1 and 2 technical training, including SkilledTradesBC Standardized Horticulturist Foundation Exam </td></tr> </table>	Requirement	Level of Achievement Required	Technical Training	Minimum 70% in: Level 1 and 2 technical training, including SkilledTradesBC Standardized Horticulturist Foundation Exam
Requirement	Level of Achievement Required				
Technical Training	Minimum 70% in: Level 1 and 2 technical training, including SkilledTradesBC Standardized Horticulturist Foundation Exam				
Program Duration	Duration varies depending on how training is delivered, but program takes 1080 hours				
Credit toward Apprenticeship	Individuals who complete the Landscape Horticulture Foundation program will receive the following credit toward completion of the Landscape Horticulturist apprenticeship program: - Technical Training: Level 1 and Level 2 - Work-Based Training: 500 hours				



Supporting Documents

BC Landscape Horticulturist Program Outline (2028) – Defines the full scope of knowledge and skills required to competently perform the occupation in BC. Available from the SkilledTradesBC website.

Landscape Horticulturist Red Seal Occupational Standards (2025) – Prepared by industry experts, under the guidance of the federal government, for Red Seal trades to define the national standard of competence for the trade. Available from the Red Seal website: www.red-seal.ca.

Contacts

SkilledTradesBC manages B.C.'s industry training and apprenticeship programs. Contact SkilledTradesBC Customer service if you have any questions regarding registration, examinations or certification for this program.

Telephone: 778-328-8700
Toll Free (within BC): 1-866-660-6011
Website: www.skilledtradesbc.ca

Fax: 778-328-8701
Email: customerservice@skilledtradesbc.ca

Revision History

The standards for this program were reviewed and/or updated on the dates below.

Program Standards Approved: March 2002
Updated: January 2006
November 2008
June 2010
December 2011
May 2013
Program Standards Approved: October 2017
April 2026

Program Profiles are updated regularly. Visit www.skilledtradesbc.ca for the most current version.