



## Course

# Level 3 Crop Technician (container system) Apprenticeship standard



Course duration:  
24 months

## Summary

### Knowledge

- Health and safety legislation
- Environmental issues and measures
- Principles, methods and systems
- Machinery use and maintenance
- Finance
- Quality standards

### Skills

- Health and safety
- Crop establishment
- Vehicle operation
- Crop management
- Harvest
- Storage
- Maintenance and preparation

### Behaviours

- Strong work ethic
- Adaptability
- Effective communicator
- Team working
- Safety awareness

## Learn how to optimise crop and plant yields in container based systems, such as fruit production and growing plants and trees, with our Level 3 Crop Technician Apprenticeship.

Agriculture and horticulture industries form the vital starting point for both the food and landscaping industries which account for over 14% of the British GDP, offering exciting and varied careers in the UK and abroad. As a crop technician in container based systems, you'll have a key role in a technically advanced and innovative environment. You can look forward to a varied and in-depth course, which should last around 24 months depending on your previous experience.

### Who is it for?

You'll be self-motivated and enjoy working as part of a team as well as independently. Container production requires monitoring and caring for vast numbers of plants on an individual basis and so you'll need good observational skills and attention to detail.

### What will you learn?

You'll learn about the establishment, management, harvest and post-harvest operations. The environment is 'managed' in a containerised system and so you'll spend a proportion of your time indoors. You can read more in the table overleaf. Alongside this, and following an initial assessment, we will work with you, your manager and mentor to create an individual training plan. This will include development of skills such as reading, writing, speaking, listening and communication in English as well as maths, in preparation for Level 2 Functional Skills. Within this plan there will also be activities and learning to improve your personal soft skills.

### What comes next?

On completion, you'll receive

- Level 2 award in Safe use of pesticides and on completion of the pesticides foundation, one of the following units: Boom sprayer, mounted, trailed or self-propelled equipment; Granular application equipment; Handheld applicator equipment
- Level 3 award in Emergency First Aid at Work

## Knowledge

Area	Learning aims and development
<b>Health and safety legislation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and safety legislation and codes of practice in relation to your job role/workplace including contingency/emergency plans</li> <li>• Practical health and safety information to ensure everyone is safe in the workplace</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental issues and measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental issues/legislation, codes of practice and company policies</li> <li>• Identification of key pests weeds and diseases and awareness of control mechanisms including potential impact on environment</li> <li>• Relationship between environmental conditions (including weather), plant protection methods and crop growth</li> <li>• Importance of maintaining good standards of hygiene and environmental control relating to crop/food storage (where relevant)</li> </ul>
<b>Principles, methods and systems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Importance of maintaining systems for record keeping and storage used within the organisation</li> <li>• Preparation methods, timing of activities and aftercare requirements for the crops grown on-site</li> <li>• Crop identification and establishment process including principles and methods</li> <li>• Principles of plant growth and development and plant health</li> <li>• Difference growing mediums and their impact/relevance to production on site</li> </ul>
<b>Machinery use and maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of machinery and equipment</li> <li>• Efficient use of machinery and equipment</li> </ul>
<b>Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Input costs, cost of production, margins and impact on business profitability</li> </ul>
<b>Quality standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality standards and specifications relevant to the business and their importance</li> </ul>

## Skills

Area	Learning aims and development
<b>Health and safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote and maintain health, safety and security</li> <li>Manage accurate records within the workplace</li> <li>Maintain and operate machinery and other equipment to allow safe and efficient operation</li> </ul>
<b>Crop establishment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare seed bed/growing medium for maximum growth potential</li> <li>Carry out relevant establishment of crops for efficient growth</li> </ul>
<b>Vehicle operation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competently operate (to the equivalent of a certified level) a relevant vehicle used in the business</li> </ul>
<b>Crop management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control of pests, weeds and diseases including safe use, application and storage of chemicals</li> <li>Carry out plant nutrient application and/or irrigation tasks if applicable to aid growth of crop</li> <li>Optimise growth conditions for specific crops, based on the individual needs of the plant relative to environment</li> </ul>
<b>Harvest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out harvesting operations including assessment of timing and quality</li> <li>Appropriate harvesting techniques to match crop condition and quality requirements</li> <li>Operate to high levels of hygiene</li> <li>Plant removal</li> </ul>
<b>Storage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Store crops in suitable conditions to maintain quality</li> </ul>
<b>Maintenance and preparation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil/substrate maintenance tasks to ensure efficient and healthy growth of the crop/plant</li> <li>Soil/substrate sampling and acting upon results as appropriate to ensure nutrition is correct</li> <li>Maintenance of productive and non-productive areas</li> </ul>

## Behaviours

Area	Learning aims and development
<b>Strong work ethic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote and maintain health, safety and security</li> <li>Strong work ethic including pride in work, attention to detail, integrity, honesty, time management, loyalty and respect for others</li> <li>Positive attitude, motivated, dependable, ethical, responsible, flexible and reliable</li> <li>A willingness to learn and contribute to your own continuing professional development</li> <li>Ability to take responsibility and be accountable for your own actions</li> </ul>
<b>Adaptability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Able to adapt to change in environmental conditions, technologies, situations and working environments</li> <li>Willingness to accept changing priorities and work patterns when new jobs need to be done, or requirements change</li> </ul>
<b>Effective communicator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being a clear and effective communicator</li> <li>Able to give/receive information and instruction accurately and in a timely and positive manner</li> </ul>
<b>Teamworking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control of pests, weeds and diseases including safe use, application and storage of chemicals</li> <li>Work and contribute effectively in a team</li> <li>Willing to use own initiative and seek help when appropriate</li> <li>Work proactively with internal and external people to achieve positive outcomes</li> </ul>
<b>Safety awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embrace a safety culture and apply proactively for self, colleagues and visitors</li> </ul>

## Additional skills

As well as the core curriculum, you will develop a number of additional skills throughout the course of your apprenticeship:

### NCFE functional skills

You will work on developing positivity and confidence in the use of maths and English skills in real world and employment-based situations.

#### Maths

Through the Level 2 Functional Skills qualifications you will demonstrate a sound grasp of mathematical skills at the appropriate level and the ability to apply mathematical thinking effectively to solve problems in the workplace and in other real-life situations.

#### English

Through the Level 2 Functional Skills qualifications you will demonstrate the ability at an appropriate level to read, write, speak, listen and communicate in English, and to apply these skills effectively to a range of purposes in the workplace and in other real-life situations

### British values

As part of your apprenticeship, we will discuss five key values and their impact and importance in the workplace. These will be democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

### Soft skills development

Personal Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS) are generic skills that are essential to life, learning and work. Developing these will make a significant impact on your ability to contribute confidently both within and outside of their working environment. PLTS include independent enquiry, creative thinking, reflection, team working, self-management and effective participation.

### PREVENT

PREVENT is part of the government's CONTEST strategy of which education is a fundamental part. The aim of the strategy is "to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence." CONTEST is split into four work-streams that are known within the counter-terrorism community as the 'four Ps': Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Prepare.



#### Plan

We take into consideration your skills at each stage of the process, planning the learning and follow-up activities.

#### Do

You undertake the learning and activities that have been planned.

#### Check

We check your learning using a combination of assignments, discussions and observations of workplace activities, ensuring that skills, knowledge and behaviours are embedded and being practised.

#### Act

If areas of further learning are identified, reinforcement training is planned in and provided.