



**HORTICULTURE AND COUNTRYSIDE
MANAGEMENT
FINAL SCHEDULE OF MODULES AND DATES
Warrington
Autumn 2019**

IMPORTANT: Please attend each module wearing sturdy outdoor footwear, waterproofs and clothes that you do not mind getting mucky!

MODULE
<p>SESSION 1:</p> <p>1. Introductions and Health and Safety</p> <p>2. Risk Assessment To cover: Discussion about the need for Risk Assessment; the process; a short exercise</p> <p>3. Tools handling and maintenance To cover: Discussion about proper use and maintenance of tools; systems for accounting for tools; tool storage and reporting faulty tools. Tools to be considered include spades/forks, hand trowels/forks, shears/edging shears, bow saws, hand saws, loppers, mattocks.</p> <p>4. Woodland Management To cover: Assessing tree health; who to contact if you have concerns; pruning; making brash piles; common tree identification; common native shrub identification.</p> <p>Practical task: Pruning and clearing whips and saplings in the lower woods – creating a sturdy brash pile.</p> <p>Weekly plant ID task – 3 common species</p>
<p>SESSION 2:</p> <p>5. Assessing a Site To cover: Existing vegetation, aspect, surroundings, access, current and planned use.</p> <p>6. Ground preparation To cover: Assessing and preparing the ground for specific purposes; marking out; double digging</p> <p>7. Soil Management and composting: To cover: assessing the soil – soil types/weed problems/nutrient levels; soil improvement; top soil and subsoil; altering your soil; soil structure; reducing fertility; how to create compost; how to build a heap.</p> <p>Practical task: Digging over areas for shrub planting.</p> <p>Weekly plant ID task – 3 common species</p>
<p>SESSION 3:</p> <p>8. Habitat creation To cover: The three main habitat types - woodlands; wetlands; grasslands. We will look at the different characteristics of each habitat; the processes of starting a new habitat and also improving existing ones.</p> <p>9. Wildlife gardening To cover: creating a wildlife friendly area; attracting pollinators through the year; maintaining your garden with wildlife in mind; creating small habitats.</p> <p>10. Establishing a shrub area for ground cover/habitat diversity: To cover: Different types of native shrubs, species selection & value for wildlife, establishment techniques, ongoing maintenance.</p> <p>Practical task: Planting shrubs</p>

Weekly plant ID task – 3 common species

SESSION 4:

11. Right Plant Right Place

To cover: Assessing area and soil for particular plants: shade/full sun; acid/alkali soils; size of plot v. size your plant will grow.

12. Classes of plants

To cover: Perennials, annuals, shrubs, trees, herbaceous plants, alpiners and climbers

13. Plant nomenclature

To cover: Scientific/botanical plant names, genus species etc.

Practical task: Tree survey; more shrub and bulb planting

Weekly plant ID task – 3 common species

SESSION 5:

14. Pest and disease

To cover: Identifying, treating and preventing common plant problems; the difference between pest, disease, virus.

15. Litter picking and keeping a tidy plot

To cover: Best practice for litter picking and disposal; maintaining paths; maintaining edging and planting beds; mowing regimes; dead-heading; cutting back herbaceous plants; mulching.

Practical task: Site tidy; clearing debris; identifying any pests and disease; continue with clearing woodland whips and saplings.

Weekly plant ID task – 3 common species