



Start your horticulture career
in our historic estate gardens



**Mount
Congreve
Gardens**

Train with experienced horticulturalists
surrounded by heritage, beauty,
and rare plant collections



wwetb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Phort Láirge agus Loch Garman
Waterford and Wexford
Education and Training Board

SOLAS
learning works



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



COURSE CONTENT



Mount Congreve
School of Horticulture

QQI Level 5 Major Award in Horticulture

HORTICULTURAL OPERATIONS

During the programme learners will develop a range of core skills in horticultural operations in preparation for working in a horticultural role in a workplace setting. Achieve hands-on practical skills working with hand and mechanical tools in the workplace including maintenance requirements. Gain an understanding for health & safety hazards associated with the horticultural workplace including safe use of a range of tools and machinery.



HORTICULTURAL TAXONOMY AND PLANT IDENTIFICATION

QQI AWARD 5N2527 PLANT IDENTIFICATION & USE (10 credits)

Gain an understanding of plant physiology, plant classification and botanical nomenclature. Guided plant walks carrying out in-depth study of plant stock and developing identification techniques amidst the vast Mount Congreve plant collections. Investigate and become familiar with a range of planting styles and undertake projects in the planning and design of planting schemes for different settings.



PLANT HEALTH AND PROTECTION

QQI AWARD 5N2546 PLANT PROTECTION (15 credits)

Undertake pest and disease identification techniques, understand pest life cycles, prevention and control techniques. Explore emerging risks including pests, diseases and weeds and gain insight into plant protection measures and integrated pest management (IPM) practices. Includes introduction to sustainable horticulture principles and practices.



FOUNDATION IN BOTANICAL SCIENCES

QQI AWARDS 5N2548 PLANT SCIENCE (10 credits) and 5N2530 SOIL SCIENCE & GROWING MEDIA (10 credits)

Develop skills and knowledge across plant and soil sciences, including field experiments, soil analysis techniques, and a variety of laboratory work investigating plant physiology and plant processes. Includes an introduction to biodiversity, exploring a range of habitats across the estate and gaining an understanding of environmental science.



FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

QQI AWARD 5N2552 FRUIT & VEGETABLE PRODUCTION (15 credits)

Develop skills in the planning and execution of small-scale sustainable edible crop production and harvesting (veg and fruit). Training is set within the four acre walled kitchen garden where you will experience the full growing life cycle and develop hands on skills across crop husbandry practices, production programme planning, and crop maintenance. Includes introduction to topics on food sustainability and self sufficiency.



PROPAGATION IN HORTICULTURE

QQI AWARD 5N2547 PLANT PROPAGATION (15 credits)

Master a range of propagation techniques and experience propagation onsite across a diverse range of plant species. A unique opportunity to train in the commercial propagation of plants working within one of the largest collections of plants in the world.



ESTATE MANAGEMENT, PLANT ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE

QQI AWARD 5N2548 ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE (15 credits)

Develop the knowledge and skill to work with a broad range of plants learning to select, plant and care for common ornamental horticultural plants. Mount Congreve Gardens provide the opportunity to develop plant management skills and experience working in the formal lawn gardens, pond and water gardens, wetland habitats, vast herbaceous borders, orchards, woodlands, parkland and greenhouses.

INTRODUCTION TO THE HORTICULTURE INDUSTRY

QQI AWARD 5N1433 WORK PRACTICE (15 credits)

Develop an understanding of the Irish horticulture industry, breadth of sectors, state bodies, potential job roles and employers. The programme includes a supported linked Work Placement which enables students to spend time working with a local employer and gain invaluable work experience in their chosen field.

TEAMWORK AND COMMUNICATIONS IN THE WORKPLACE

QQI AWARD 5N1367 TEAMWORKING (15 credits)

Gain an understanding of team development and operating in multi-team environments with focus on team development and leadership. Develop a range of communication skills applicable for use in the workplace setting, including work related interview preparation techniques and mock interview workshops. IT skills and supports, research and study skills including exam preparation techniques throughout the duration of the programme.

COURSE AWARD AND CERTIFICATION

On successful completion of the above programme, learners will receive a QQI Level 5 Major Award in Horticulture (5M2586) presented at the school's Annual Award Graduation ceremony. WWETB's programmes are validated by QQI, ensuring that quality standards are maintained and that your qualification meets nationally recognised standards for a Major Award.

Holding a QQI Level 5 Major Award demonstrates to employers and educational providers that you have met a nationally recognised standard of competence in the field of horticulture under the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

COURSE INFO



COURSE INTRODUCTION

This one-year training programme is operated in collaboration with the **Waterford & Wexford Education and Training Board**. The programme has been designed to prepare students to work in the Horticulture industry. This is the ideal starting point for a successful and fulfilling career in horticulture which covers a varied range of individual sectors and specialisms.



Join our new class of budding horticulturalists choosing to study at the world-famous Mount Congreve Gardens. Start your career by undertaking study and practical skills training amongst the vast botanical plant collections, four acre walled garden, Georgian glasshouses, wetlands, and beautiful woodland gardens all of which present a unique opportunity to experience a variety of microclimates and plant growing conditions.

Facilities include dedicated student classrooms with IT facilities in the main house and a student hub adjacent to the Walled Garden with student canteen and locker room facilities.



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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Education:

NFQ Level 4 Major Award or equivalent when accessing a QQI Level 5 programme. Mature learner entry requirements available via the local WWETB pathway. For those whose first language is not English, CERFL proficiency at B2 is required for access to Level 5 courses. Additional requirements may apply to non-EU/EEA Applicants and all applications to this programme will be subject to WWETB enrolment criteria.

Aptitude:

Applicants must have the ability to acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies set out in the course outline and learning outcomes

Course Fees:

This is a WWETB funded training initiative and is FREE to all students. There are NO course or registration fees payable to participate on this course. Students applying who are currently in receipt of a social welfare payment from the Department of Social Protection Protection are also eligible to receive a WWETB training allowance while participating on this course.

For information on training allowance eligibility please get in touch with your local INTREO office.

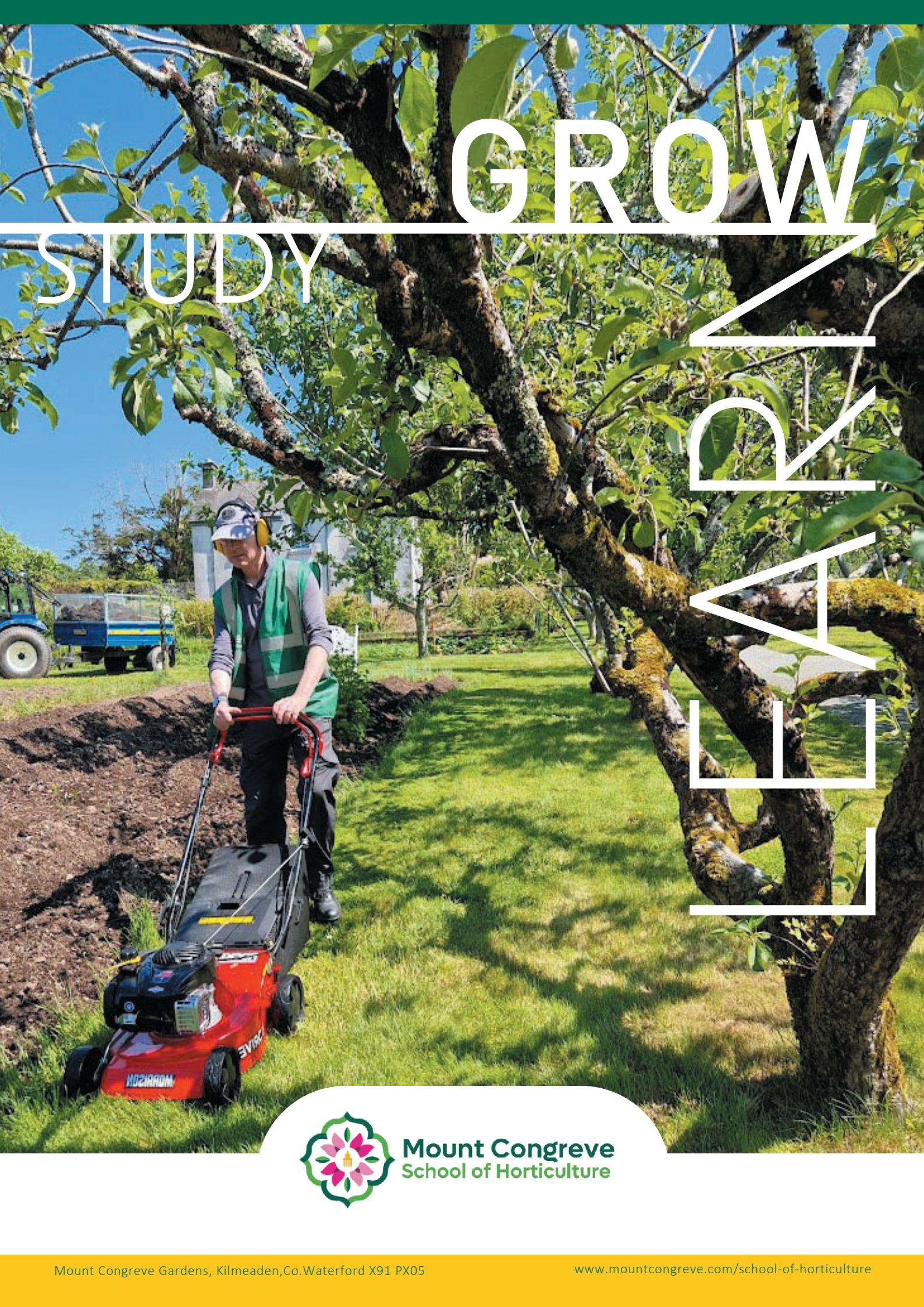


HOW TO APPLY:

A new QQI LEVEL 5 course programme will commence in April 2026. The programme is designed to facilitate learning across the four seasons and runs over a 48 week duration which includes timetabled course holidays and a scheduled block of external work placement to gain experience with horticultural employers.

Applications are currently open for our APRIL 2026 course start date. Don't miss out. Download our Application Form online now at:

www.mountcongreve.com/school-of-horticulture



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