



Horticulture & Permaculture Training and Employment Pathways

Horticulture is one of Australia's fastest growing industries, closely linked to urban development and lifestyle. It includes maintaining parks and gardens, landscaping and plant nurseries. Newer industries such as vertical and rooftop gardens and Therapeutic Horticulture are growing and have been identified as new industry skills areas with accredited industry training in the planning and development stage. There is also more demand for gardens to be designed and maintained incorporating organic and permaculture principles as more people recognise the need for environmental sustainability.

There are a wide range of organisations and industries that employ individuals to design, construct, maintain and work in Horticulture or Permaculture programs such as:

- Disability Services
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Aged Care Services
- Neighbourhood/Community Houses
- Prisons/Correctional Facilities
- Employment and Training Programs
- Mental Health Services
- Local Councils
- Retail outlets
- Production nurseries
- Contracting Businesses

The roles individuals may be engaged in are varied and encompass many job titles such as:

- Horticulturalist
- Gardener
- Garden Assistant
- Landscape Designer
- Landscaping Assistant
- Garden Program Facilitator
- Horticulture/Permaculture Trainer
- Retail or Production Nursery worker
- Parks & Gardens workers
- Arborist

There is also the option of self-employment through setting up a small business.

Accredited Training Pathways

Below is a list of qualifications that may be pathways to roles encompassing Horticulture and/or Permaculture. To find out more about specific courses you can visit the website of Victorian Skills Gateway at www.skills.vic.gov.au

You can undertake qualifications full or part-time at TAFEs such as Melbourne Polytechnic, Swinburne and Kangan.

Industry Sector	Courses
Horticulture	Cert II in Horticulture AHC20416 Cert III in Horticulture AHC30716 (including Apprenticeships) Cert IV in Horticulture AHC40416 Diploma of Horticulture AHC50416
Landscaping	Cert II in Landscaping AHC21616 Cert III in Landscape Construction AHC30916 (including Apprenticeships) Cert IV in Landscape AHC42016 Diploma of Landscape Design AHC50616
Parks & Gardens	Cert III, IV, Diploma in Parks & Gardens
Retail Nursery	Cert III, IV, Diploma in Retail Nursery
Permaculture	Permaculture Demonstrator Skill Set Permaculture Design Course (PDC) Cert I, II, III, IV or Diploma Permaculture

Undertaking CERES accredited 3 unit Horticulture Taster course can also be a way of testing out whether accredited training is for you. Details for this course can be found on our website.

CERES is working towards offering a Permaculture Demonstrator Skillset from the Cert III Permaculture in 2020. This Skillset is aimed at those wanting to gain employment as a Permaculture Demonstrator/Trainer/Facilitator in non-accredited or Certificate I level school, labour market or community programs.

In 2020 the Victorian Government is offering 'FREE' Certificates in TAFEs for eligible students in a range of priority (skills shortage) industries including Cert III in Horticulture. Please note that these courses whilst free of tuition fees will still incur amenities and materials fees:

For further details on these free courses, including eligibility, visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/free-tafe>

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships, where you combine paid employment and study, are available at Certificate III level and you can investigate these further at:

www.aapathways.com.au, www.aga.com.au, www.appsmatter.com.au

Self-employment

The option of setting up your own business can be explored further at:

www.business.gov.au/guide/starting; www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/jobs-and-careers/starting-a-business/how-to-set-up-a-business;

You may also be eligible for financial, mentoring and training assistance to set up a new business through the NEIS program:

www.jobs.gov.au/self-employment-new-business-assistance-neis

Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteering can be a valuable way to build some hands-on experience and knowledge as well as gain useful contacts and potential future job referees.

CERES, like many other organisations, has a range of horticulture volunteering opportunities advertised on it's website: <https://ceres.org.au/volunteer/>

Local Councils usually have details of Community Gardens within the municipality on their websites, and sometimes associated volunteering opportunities, so have a look at your own LGA website.

Many organisations will also advertise beyond their own website so it's worth looking at opportunities listed with Volunteering Victoria on <http://volunteeringvictoria.org.au/go-volunteer/> or Seek on <http://volunteer.com.au>

Some more links –

<https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/get-involved/volunteer/friends-groups>

<http://friendsvic.org/>

<https://conservationvolunteers.com.au>

<https://habitat.org.au/volunteer/volunteer-in-australia>

<https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/volunteer/>

Pathways Planning

If you want to explore your pathways or book an interview time you can contact Karen Mengell, VET Co-ordinator & Pathways Planning Officer via karen.mengell@ceres.org.au or 9389 0127