

HORTICULTURE

HORTICULTURE is the art of processing and marketing of fruit, vegetables, grass, flowers, shrubs and trees for indoor and outdoor usage.

The horticulturist must have a love for nature, be creative and have technical ability.

WHAT DOES A HORTICULTURIST DO?

- The beautification of areas such as pavements and entrances of towns and cities, areas next to freeways, parks and railway stations.
- Plant decoration for functions and offices.
- The creation of recreation areas such as botanical gardens, nature reserves and hiking trails where people can relax, but also for research, conservation and the education of the public.
- The conservation of the environment through the provision of green zones, the resettlement of vegetation in certain areas and the stabilisation of the soil.
- The establishment and management of nurseries.

Horticulturists often work with engineers, landscape architects, environmental conservationists and town planners. Through changing, beautifying and conserving the environment, the horticulturist contributes to a higher quality of life.

REQUIREMENTS

A Senior Certificate or equivalent qualification.

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

English

Biology

Physical Science

TRAINING

UNIVERSITY

A four-year BSc (Agric) degree is offered at most universities as well as a B degree in Horticulture.

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

A four-year full-time BTech degree is offered.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Horticulturists are employed by municipalities, provincial governments, commercial nurseries and manufacturers of agricultural chemicals. Horticulturists can work as researchers at various research institutes or be self employed and act as advisers for fruit, vegetable and flower farms as well as fertiliser manufacturers.



21

