



# A Career in Gardening?

## In East London?

### Find a job you love!

For more information about careers, search “**RHS careers horticulture**” and find out more about different roles. Search “**RHS careers opportunities**” for current vacancies. The **Chartered Institute of Horticulturalists** has also a lot of great careers’ advice.

If you see someone doing a green job you like the look of, ask them about it. People in gardening are generally friendly, approachable, and supportive, and keen to share their passion.

A lot of organisations run Kickstart places, for 16-24-year olds. But you’re never too old to find a job you love and there are many people within horticulture who have moved over from other careers to follow a new found passion later in life... just go for it...!



For more information about Core Landscapes:

[www.core-landscapes.co.uk](http://www.core-landscapes.co.uk)

@corelandscapeslondon

@communitymeanwhilegarden

Core Landscapes is a Core Arts project [www.corearts.co.uk](http://www.corearts.co.uk)

**core arts promoting positive mental health through creative learning**



Charity no: 1043588



### Like plants? Working with nature? Being outdoors?

There’s a huge range of career pathways open to YOU and London is a great place to make the most of them...



Core Landscapes roof garden – a Core Arts project [www.core-landscapes.co.uk](http://www.core-landscapes.co.uk)

### Get trained: Qualifications & Apprenticeships

There’s a lot of practical learning needed for jobs in the green sector and a huge range of qualifications available, from specialised degrees, to short courses & diplomas. You can improve skills, and gain new ones, in everything from managing community orchards to forest school training. Check out:



- **RHS qualifications:** industry recognised. With 3 levels of qualifications for those just starting out, to professional development options. Flexible learning, part-time studying, online or in person.
- **Schools & Colleges:** Loads in and around London, from Capel Manor to Walworth Garden’s School of Horticultural and Writtle University College.
- **Accredited (and non-accredited) Training, online or in person:** A huge range of flexible courses in specialised areas available. Like a Social and Therapeutic Horticulture award (via THRIVE) or market gardening (via Organic Lea) growing sustainably (via the Permaculture Association) or community herbalism (via Hackney Herbal).
- **Paid Apprenticeships:** Learn skills while doing the job. Run by big organisations, like the RHS, or Royal Parks in London, but small organisations also run programmes too...

#### Useful Sites:

RHS Qualifications & Training: [www.rhs.org.uk/training](http://www.rhs.org.uk/training)

Walworth School of Horticulture: [www.walworthgarden.org.uk](http://www.walworthgarden.org.uk)

Capel Manor: [www.capel.ac.uk](http://www.capel.ac.uk)

Writtle University College: [www.writtle.ac.uk](http://www.writtle.ac.uk)

Thrive: Award in social therapeutic horticulture: [www.thrive.org.uk](http://www.thrive.org.uk)

The Permaculture Association: [www.permaculture.org.uk](http://www.permaculture.org.uk)

The Orchard Project: [www.theorchardproject.org.uk](http://www.theorchardproject.org.uk)

Organic Lea: often take on apprentices: [www.organiclea.org.uk](http://www.organiclea.org.uk)

Hackney Herbal: [www.hackneyherbal.com](http://www.hackneyherbal.com)

#### Apprenticeships:

Royal Parks: [www.royalparks.org.uk/get-involved/the-royal-parks-apprenticeship-scheme](http://www.royalparks.org.uk/get-involved/the-royal-parks-apprenticeship-scheme)

Kew Gardens: [www.kew.org/learning/horticultural-training/apprenticeship-in-botanical-horticulture](http://www.kew.org/learning/horticultural-training/apprenticeship-in-botanical-horticulture)

National Trust: [www.nationaltrustjobs.org.uk/where-you-could-work/apprenticeships](http://www.nationaltrustjobs.org.uk/where-you-could-work/apprenticeships)

Apprenticeships via Gov.uk: [www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)

### Try things out: Volunteering



Volunteering is a great way to find out what the job is REALLY like. It’s useful experience to put on your CV and a good way to find out about upcoming job opportunities within the green sector.

Most community gardens and many green-based organisations are open to new volunteers. Here are some networks that list volunteer opportunities: some national, some local.

- **Social Farms and Gardens:** a support network for community gardens + city farms, with maps of their locations + a range of training info: [www.farmgarden.org.uk](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk)
- **Capital Growth:** London’s largest community food growing network, listing volunteering opportunities, green jobs and other resources: [www.capitalgrowth.org](http://www.capitalgrowth.org)
- **Hackney Union of Gardens:** a network of 60+ growing spaces sharing resources and information, often listing volunteering ops and green jobs via their WhatsApp group. [www.cordwainersgrow.org.uk/news/unionofgardens/](http://www.cordwainersgrow.org.uk/news/unionofgardens/)
- **Via your local council:** Most councils, including Hackney & Tower Hamlets, have web pages on green volunteering opportunities, and services that link volunteers with green organisations. Try Hackney CVS [www.hcvs.org.uk](http://www.hcvs.org.uk)



Locally, **Core Landscapes – a Core Arts project**, runs community gardening volunteer programmes throughout the year with a range of green sites to get involved with. [www.corearts.co.uk/core-landscapes/volunteering](http://www.corearts.co.uk/core-landscapes/volunteering)

Volunteering at Core Landscapes



# Green Career inspiration

## Growing Plants?

There are numerous jobs for growers - in plant nurseries and gardens, and in the hundreds of places growing food across London. There are jobs for gardeners in schools, businesses and for private clients; in orchards and kitchen gardens for shops & restaurants (even Tottenham football club has its own food growing garden!) Lidka D'Agostino is the **Head Gardener** at Hackney School of Food, where they grow food for the kitchen. She says it's a job that "makes me happy every day".

[www.hackneyschooloffood.com](http://www.hackneyschooloffood.com)

## In Education?

Once you've got skills in horticulture, you can pass them on and become an **Educator** yourself. But there many roles in education too, like forest school teaching, using nature-based outdoor learning, or using the natural world to engage children with special support needs. Community gardens and city farms often run programmes engaging local schools and groups with green education, for adults as well as children.

[www.hackneyforestschool.co.uk](http://www.hackneyforestschool.co.uk)  
[www.hacknecityfarm.co.uk](http://www.hacknecityfarm.co.uk)

## Designing?

There are lots of ways to link design skills with a love of horticulture - from sculpture to wallpaper design. Become a florist - designing with flowers. Or work in interiors, using indoor plants to dress hotels and film sets. You could train to be a **Garden Designer**, creating beautiful gardens from rooftops to courtyards. You could even become a Chelsea Gold Award winning, garden designer like local Hackney based Andy Smith- Williams.

[www.smithwilliamsgardens.co.uk](http://www.smithwilliamsgardens.co.uk)

## Health & Green Care?

Gardens, nature and plants can aid recovery and support mental health and there are numerous careers in this ever-growing field. You can train to be a **Community Gardener or Social & Therapeutic Horticulture Practitioner** supporting people with physical or mental health issues, or who are isolated, disadvantaged or vulnerable.

Many plants have medicinal qualities, you could train to be a medical herbalist - creating and using plant-based medicines. Rasheeqa Ahmad, **Community Herbalist at Hedge Herbs** says "It's amazing to find out and share with others what plant healing means to you in all its great diversity. It will appeal if you're into finding out how to make things healthier - plants, people, land, communities, and systems."

[www.hedgeherbs.org.uk](http://www.hedgeherbs.org.uk)

## In Hard Landscaping and Maintenance?

Creating the structures and landscaping to form the base of a garden. It can involve heavy machinery to move soil and plants around, and for sculpting landscapes, as well as building and carpentry skills like bricklaying and making pergolas. Or you could work in grounds maintenance looking after pitches for clubs and schools, or in parks and green spaces for local communities. Or become a skilled **Arborist**, climbing up trees to care and maintain them.

[www.capel.ac.uk](http://www.capel.ac.uk)

## In the Arts & Media?

There's a wealth of great jobs connected to plants and gardens in the media and arts, from **TV Presenter to Garden Photographer**. And lots of different areas that need content and managing - like magazines and social media. Or you could become an **Artist** inspired by the environment: **Queer Botany** create installations that challenge perceptions and affirm connections between queerness and nature.

[www.queerbotany.com](http://www.queerbotany.com)

## In Science?

Jobs could be in research, in a lab or in the field...there are loads of science-based jobs in and around horticulture. Become an **Ethnobotanist** and study plants and their cultural uses, or a soil scientist and investigate soil life and the world underneath our feet. Or research pollinating insects to help protect them. Or train to be an **Environmental Scientist**, work in conservation, research environmental pollution, and find ways to improve sustainability, bio-diversity and help mitigate climate change.

## In Community and Green Activism?

There are lots of jobs that link campaigning, horticulture, agriculture and the wider environment, like the Women's Environmental Network (WEN) in East London, who tackle issues around gender, health and the environment. Black Rootz in Haringey, a multigenerational Black-led growing project where older generations share expertise and support younger generations in the natural environment, and SUSTAIN who campaign for sustainable food systems.

[www.wen.org.uk](http://www.wen.org.uk) | [www.ubele.org/our-work/black-rootz](http://www.ubele.org/our-work/black-rootz) | [www.sustainweb.org](http://www.sustainweb.org)

## And these are just a few of the options... there are many more...

You could be a mixologist, making cocktails from herbs; or a forager supplying restaurants with wild food. You could work in a garden centre, or indoor plant shop, or be a soft landscaper planting up gardens and green spaces, learn how to create dyes from plants, or botanical based skin creams or perfumery or plant based drinks specialist; be a plant collector, propagator, forester, garden historian or a guerrilla gardener and many more... It's all possible!

Lidka D'Agostino, Head Gardener at Hackney School of Food



Andy Smith-Williams holding a RHS Chelsea GOLD Award



Jon Bennett Landscaper



James Wong Ethnobotanist, Influencer + TV presenter



Cherrelle Douglas (Clinical Herbalist student) and Rasheeqa Ahmad of Hedge Herbs

TV garden designers and presenters Danny Clarke and Jayshawn Hayden Smith



Black Rootz food growing project

