

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SID07717 GARDEN MAINTENANCE – UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS OF GARDEN MAINTENANCE AND SOIL CULTIVATION

Tutor: STEPHEN SMITH

Date: 1 DAY SATURDAY 17 MARCH

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Getting the best out of a garden comes with a thorough understanding of the principles lying behind horticultural practice. This course will look at soil, its cultivation and improvement, and the nutritional requirements of plants.

By the end of the course you will:

- Have a basic understanding of the composition of soil, the nutrients needed for healthy plant growth and soil pH.
- Have a clear understanding of soil cultivation and associated hand tool use through the techniques involved in outdoor seed-bed preparation.
- Select and apply common fertilisers and mulches.
- Understand the theory and practice of composting garden waste.

Lesson outline

1. Mineral and organic matter in soils theory.
2. Soil cultivation & seed bed prep practical.
3. Nutrients, soil water & pH theory.
4. Composting and mulching practical.

LEVEL: BEGINNERS

Starting points. For those with little or no experience who want to go back to basics and would like a structured introduction to a subject.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Stephen Smith is a Horticulturalist and Landscape Historian. He works as a freelance consultant specialising in historic landscapes and horticultural training.

TIMETABLE:

9.00–9.15am	Registration and coffee
9.15am	Morning classes
10.30am	Coffee
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea (this will probably be in the Gardens Restaurant)
5.00pm	Classes finish

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

If you would like to bring images of your garden along for discussion that would be useful. If you have any plants that you cannot identify then maybe photos or leaves could assist in the process.

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

Included in the course fee are materials used: plants, turf etc.

Please bring any of the following, if you have them:

Secateurs, gardening gloves, boots and wet weather gear (if necessary)

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. There are no health and safety restrictions on access to this studio/teaching space in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

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