

## Landscape Horticulturist

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1. How can I obtain a Certificate of Qualification in Nova Scotia?

There are currently three ways to obtain certification in the Landscape Horticulturist trade in Nova Scotia:

- Trade qualification (Individuals with Significant Experience Who Wish to Challenge the Red Seal Exam – See question # 2)
- Certification Recognition (Individuals who already hold four certificates from the Landscape Industry Certified Technician Program – See question # 3)
- Apprenticeship Training (Requires an employer and 1500 hours of prior work experience in the trade – See question # 4)

#### 2. How can I apply under the Trade Qualification program to Challenge the Red Seal Exam?

The Apprenticeship Training division will approve individuals to challenge the Interprovincial Standards Red Seal Examination (Red Seal Exam) if they can provide proof they:

- have the required 9,000 hours of hands-on work experience in the trade, and
- can provide two qualified references who can attest to their skills in the trade.

Individuals who pass the Red Seal exam will be issued a Nova Scotia Certificate of Qualification with the Red Seal endorsement. This endorsement is a recognized standard in jurisdictions across Canada.

For more information on the Trade Qualification process (and fee), including how to apply for the Red Seal exam, please contact the Training Officer for your [trade/region](#).

#### 3. Will my Certificates obtained through the Landscape Industry Certified Technician Program be Recognized?

The Apprenticeship Training division will issue a Nova Scotia Certificate of Qualification (provincial certificate only – no Red Seal Endorsement) to individuals who can provide proof they:

- have the required 6,000 hours of hands-on work experience time in the trade, and
- hold these four certifications from the Landscape Industry Certified Technician program (Hardscape Installation; Softscape Installation; Turf Maintenance; and Ornamental Maintenance).

Individuals will not have to challenge a certification exam under this option. To apply for provincial recognition, click [here](#) for a copy of the certification recognition application form.

Once you have obtained the Nova Scotia Certificate of Qualification, you are eligible to write the Red Seal exam (at the cost of the exam fee only). Click [here](#) for a copy of the exam application form.

#### 4. How can I participate in Apprenticeship Training?

To register as an apprentice you must have an employer and a journeyman mentor to supervise your work. Apprenticeship training consists of both time on-the-job and a technical training component, and takes three approximately years (6000 hours) to complete.

The technical training component for this trade consists of the industry-delivered Landscape Industry Certified Technician program. This self-study program is available through the Canadian Nursery and

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Landscape Association and is composed of a series of written and hands-on evaluations. Apprentices will be required to obtain certification in four classifications (Hardscape Installation; Softscape Installation; Turf Maintenance; and Ornamental Maintenance).

In addition to the time requirement and the four certifications, apprentices will be required to have all mandatory practical skills signed off in the logbook. For a sample of the logbook, please click [here](#).

Please see the following progression chart for time and certification requirements:

6000 Hr Program	Requirements for Progression
Entry Requirement to Register as an Apprentice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time in Occupation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 1500 hours of work experience (requires employer letters)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Level 1 Apprentice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required Landscape Industry Certified Technician Certificates               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Obtain certification in two of the required classifications</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Time in Occupation:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Additional 1500 hours of work experience (3000 hours total)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Practical Skills:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Workplace sign-off of all mandatory practical skills associated with the two completed certifications</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Level 2 Apprentice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required Landscape Industry Certified Technician Certificates               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Obtain certification in one of the remaining required classifications</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Time in Occupation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Additional 1500 hours of work experience (4500 hours total)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Practical Skills               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Workplace sign-off of all mandatory practical skills associated with the completed certification</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Level 3 Apprentice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required Landscape Industry Certified Technician Certificates               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Obtain certification in the remaining required classification</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Time in Occupation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Additional 1500 hours of work experience (6000 hours total)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Practical Skills               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Workplace sign-off of <u>all</u> mandatory practical skills</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pass the Red Seal Certification Exam</li> </ul>

For more information on the Apprenticeship Training process, please contact the Training Officer for your [trade/region](#).

### 5. Will I be eligible for apprenticeship grants for participating in apprenticeship training?

Yes! As a registered apprentice, you will be eligible for apprenticeship grants after completing each level of your apprenticeship training program.

You will have to apply for these grants. For more information, click [here](#).

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6. Can I get credit for my Landscape Horticulturist program from Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) or Dalhousie University, Agricultural Campus?

Yes! When you register as an apprentice, you will be eligible to receive the approved credit as identified in the chart below.

Institution	Program Name	Credit Awarded
Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC)	Horticulture and Landscape Technology Diploma (two year) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landscape Concentration</li><li>• Operations Concentration</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2000 hrs</li><li>• 1000 hrs</li></ul>
Dalhousie University	Managed Landscapes Diploma (two year)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2000 hrs</li></ul>

The Apprenticeship Training division has a policy regarding time limitations on the granting of credit. Graduates may receive the pre-established credit if they register as apprentices within:

- Two years of completion of the program; or
- Two to five years of completion of the program (if proof of employment relevant to the trade can be provided); or
- Six to ten years of completion of the program (upon successful challenge of an apprenticeship exam)

**Note:** Credit for this program was established in 2013. However, individuals who completed the program in previous years are also eligible for this credit. Additionally, individuals who completed this same program at the former Truro Agricultural College are eligible to receive the credit.

For more information, please contact the Training Officer for your [trade/region](#).