

# Soil Science & Growing Media

QQI Level 5 (Component Award)



## About this Course

The QQI level 5 component award in Soil Science and Growing Media will equip the learner with the knowledge, skill and competence to evaluate soils and growing media with regard to their utilisation in a horticultural context. This course will lead to a minor award at NFQ Level 5 in Soil Science and Growing Media (5N2530).



## Who should apply?

It is suited for people who are currently pursuing careers in all of the various horticultural sectors or for those who feel they would like to explore this particular area of horticulture. This module offers participants a chance to study at the Teagasc College, National Botanic Gardens. By taking other Level 5 modules, students may be able to build towards a full award of QQI Certificate in Horticulture. This subject is worth 10 Credits which can be counted towards further studies at Level 5.



### **Module Content**

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Explain the origin of soils
- Investigate soil profiles and summarise soil groups
- Describe the physical characteristics of growing media
- Outline the chemical characteristics of growing media
- Outline soil fertility and plant nutrition
- Explain drainage
- Assess the physical and nutrient status of soils using safe working practices

### **Course Structure**

The course will be offered in one 3 hour session per week over a 28 week period commencing in early September and running through to mid-May. Students will be required to undertake class work and some laboratory work. It will be offered in the Teagasc College National Botanic Gardens. Course will be assessed through written theory exam some skills work and an assignment. Check with College for availability each year.

Application for this course is through our website at [www.teagasc.ie/education/going-to-college/apply-online/](http://www.teagasc.ie/education/going-to-college/apply-online/)

Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Dublin 9.  
Tel: 01 804 0201 or Email: [botanic.college@teagasc.ie](mailto:botanic.college@teagasc.ie)

From the Teagasc website [www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie)