About the Course
The Teagasc Colleges at National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin and Kildalton College, Co. Kilkenny are offering a QQI Level 6 component award in Nursery Stock Production. The purpose of this QQI Level 6 award is to equip the learner with the knowledge, skill and competence to perform operations in a garden centre and in a nursery stock plant production unit. This course will lead to a minor award at NFQ Level 6 in Nursery Stock Production (6N3610).

Who should Apply?
This course is designed for current employees interested in deepening both their scientific and applied knowledge of professional plant propagation.

It is suited to those already working in the industry who would like to improve their knowledge and career opportunities within the sector.

On completion of this course students can undertake further part-time courses, such as Garden Centre Operations, which is very complimentary to the Nursery Stock Production course.

Progression
This award is a component part of the Advanced Certificate in Horticulture programme offered at The College of Amenity Horticulture, Glasnevin and Teagasc Kildalton College, Co. Kilkenny.
On completion of this module the students will be able to:

- Plan a crop production programme for a range of crops, such as:
  - Bedding plants
  - Open ground trees and shrubs
  - Containerised trees and shrubs
- Perform cultural techniques such as
  - Taking cuttings
  - Pruning and staking
  - Pricking off
  - Preparing a compost mix for various container crops
  - Potting on
- Recognise crop specific pests, diseases and weeds and develop appropriate control programmes
- Appreciate current plant health import/export regulations
- Appreciate all aspects of working in a healthy and safe environment

Course Structure and Cost

In the National Botanic Gardens the course will be offered over a 16 week period commencing in early November. At Teagasc Kildalton College, Co. Kilkenny the course will be offered from early January. Students will attend the College on one to two days per week and will be required to undertake a program of learning a range of practical nursery stock skills. Students will also undertake an industry based project which will focus on specific aspects of nursery stock management. College personnel will assess their competence in nursery stock skills at the end of the course. Students will be required to keep a comprehensive diary detailing their learning of the prescribed practical skills as set out in the course schedule. A work-based project will also form part of the overall assessment.

The cost of this course will be €370 payable at registration.

Entry Requirements

In order to access this programme, applicants must fill in an application form and submit to the college by June 2016.

The following are required:
- 3 years appropriate employment in the sector
- A letter of recommendation from your current employer
- An interview with the college

Application forms are available from:
College Office, Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9
Tel: 01-8040101 | Email: botanic.college@teagasc.ie

Catherine Power, Teagasc Kildalton College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny
Tel: 051-644407 | Email: kildalton.college@teagasc.ie