

FORTH VALLEY ORCHARDS' INITIATIVE

CERTIFICATE IN ORCHARD CARE & MANAGEMENT 2011 / 2012

COURSE INFORMATION

About the Certificate in Orchard Care & Management 2011 / 2012

As part of the Forth Valley Orchards' Initiative programme, funded by the Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund 2011, Forth Environment Link is working in partnership with Elmwood College, Fife, to offer a **Certificate in Orchard Care & Management**.

This new course is being piloted via outreach from the college, and aims to expand the base of orchard management expertise across Forth Valley's orchards and develop local expertise to provide communities support for developing orchards.

The predominantly practical-based course will provide up to 18 individuals with increased knowledge and expertise of an orchard management through offering eight modules over a period of six months up until March 2012.

Entry Requirements

Priority on the course will be given to anyone living or working within the Clackmannanshire, Falkirk or Stirling Unitary Authority areas.

As the course is intended to expand the base of orchard management expertise across Forth Valley, participants should make a commitment to sharing their knowledge and expertise gained from the course, with members of their community – individuals or groups – as requested.

No formal qualifications or prior knowledge of orchards are required but participants should have a passion for, and commitment to learning about orchards.

Course Accreditation Level

The course is accredited in the Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework up to Level 3.

Course Dates & Duration

A total of eight days from Monday, 24 October 2011 until Monday, 5 March 2012, at one day per week as per the attached timetable.

Course Location

Training will be based at the following orchards:

- Camphill, Blairdrummond, Stirling
- Cloybank Estate, Banknock, Falkirk
- Howkerse Farm, Falkirk

- There may be one event held at Elmwood College in Cupar, Fife.

Participants will need to make their own way to these venues, but will be encouraged to car-share or offer lifts to those without transport.

Course Tutors

The course will be delivered by Elmwood College tutors Iain Hunter, and Andrew & Margaret Lear.

Course Fees & Resourcing

Course fees are partly subsidised by Forth Environment Link's CSGN Development Fund 2011 grant, though participants will be required to pay £50 towards the course.

Travel costs to the venues are not included in the course fees and will be the responsibility of the participant.

There are three Assisted Places available for young people or people who are registered as receiving State benefits.

All protective shoes / boots, gloves, tools & equipment, and hard hats & goggles (if required) will be provided. Participants will be required to bring their own waterproof clothing, and packed lunch.

Course Content

Tree Cultivation and Management (two days)

- Definition and forms
- Ordering and Purchase
- British & European Standards
- Root stock selection
- Soils, soil analysis and amendment (theory and practical)
- Planting layout / schemes
- Pre-planting care
- Ground preparation and planting (theory and practical)
- Staking methods (theory and practical)
- Tree aftercare

Vegetative Propagation 1

- Root stock propagation systems
- Selection of propagation materials
- Budding – T, inverted T, and Chip

- Grafting – Field / bench as appropriate (seasonal)
- Aftercare

Pest, Disease and Disorder Identification and Control

- Pest, disease and disorder spectrum for each species
- Selection of appropriate control measures
- Do's and don'ts
- Practical applications – Chemical and non-chemical
- Monitoring results
- Record keeping

Weed Identification & Control

- Practical Identification – seedlings and mature plants
- Secondary hosts & competition
- Cultural methods – theory and practical
- Monitoring results
- Record keeping

Species Specific Pruning (ie Apple, Pear, Cherry, Plum or general)

- Formative pruning
- Maintaining specific forms – cordon, espalier, fan
- Pruning mature trees
- Renovation pruning techniques
- Safety and working at height
- Care of tools

Pollination Workshop

- Theory of pollination
- Flower structure
- The role of the bee
- Other pollination methods
- Problems / disorders associated with poor pollination

Harvesting & Storage Practices

- Correct picking methods
- Identify damaged / diseased fruit
- Handling to minimise damage
- Storage methods
- Preserving and bottling

- Pasteurisation
- Juicing techniques
- Drying

Nutrition, Nutrient Budgeting & Composting

- Nutrient cycles
- Maintaining fertility
- Nutrient budgeting in organic systems
- Composting techniques

Ladder Safety Training will also be included.

Delivery Schedule

Unit	Date
Tree Cultivation and Management - Day 1 (Group A)	Monday, 24 October 2011
Tree Cultivation and Management - Day 1 (Group B)	Saturday, 29 October 2011
Tree Cultivation and Management - Day 2 (Group A)	Monday, 7 November 2011
Tree Cultivation and Management - Day 2 (Group B)	Saturday, 12 November 2011
Pest & disease Identification & Control (Group A)	Monday, 21 November 2011
Pest & disease Identification & Control (Group B)	Saturday, 26 November 2011
Weed Identification & Control (Group A)	Monday, 12 December 2011
Weed Identification & Control (Group B)	Saturday, 17 December 2011
Pruning (Group A)	Monday, 16 January 2012
Pruning (Group B)	Saturday, 21 January 2012
Nutrients & Composting (Group A)	Monday, 23 January 2012
Nutrients & Composting (Group B)	Saturday, 28 January 2012
Vegetative Propagation (Group A)	Monday, 20 February 2012
Vegetative Propagation (Group B)	Monday, 27 February 2012
Harvesting etc (Group A)	Monday, 5 March 2012
Harvesting etc (Group B)	Monday, 12 March 2012

For further information, please contact: Diane Alderdice, Project Officer , Forth Environment Link, Offices 5 & 6, Earlsgate House, St Ninian's Road, Stirling, FK8 2HE, Tel: 01786 449215, Email: diane@forthenvironmentlink.org, Mob: 07761 088 505.

About Forth Environment Link

Forth FEL began life in 1989 as the Kippen Nature Club, to provide environmental activities for local children. The club won several prestigious awards that allowed it to expand to become Kippen Environment Centre. The organisation has continued to grow and became Forth Environment Link, a registered company with charitable status, in 2004. It is now a leading provider of environmental education and action for sustainable living in the Forth Valley area and beyond.

The ethos of FEL is to deliver successful programmes at grassroots level with the aim of informing and encouraging environmental awareness and more sustainable lifestyles.

Our aims are:

- To raise awareness, appreciation and understanding of the natural world
- To explain sustainability and biodiversity through direct demonstration, education and action
- To engender informed attitudes about sustainability and biodiversity

Our objectives are:

- To promote, support and develop education and action towards sustainable living
- To work in partnership with local authorities, organisations and formal and informal community groups
- To compliment the work of government agencies in encouraging sustainable living

Visit http://www.forthenvironmentlink.org/about_fel.htm.

About Elmwood College

Source: <http://www.elmwood.ac.uk/about/about-elmwood-college>

Elmwood College is a further education college based in the heart of North East Fife. The College's portfolio of courses includes a range of landbased niche market golf-related specialisms and a range of more traditional courses, which meet the needs of the local community. It is also the Scottish Centre for Production Horticulture.

The College has a student population of over 1000 full-time students and between 3000 and 5000 part-time students each academic year. In the region of 75% of students come from Fife, while the remaining 25% are drawn from across the UK, Europe, USA, India and China.

The College has been in existence for more than 55 years and was originally a landbased college delivering courses in agriculture, horticulture, engineering and agricultural secretarial courses.

In recent years the College has diversified and introduced new curriculum areas including hair and beauty, healthcare, multimedia, art and design, interior decoration, visual merchandising, golf and greenkeeping, golf management, gamekeeping, sports coaching, hospitality and conservation.

Many of our courses are taught from National Certificate level to Higher National Certificate and Higher National Diploma levels or equivalent.

The College has proven progression routes to Higher Education courses and articulation agreements are in place with a number of Scottish Universities, allowing students to progress in their chosen field.

Contact: Elmwood College, Carslogie Road, Cupar, Fife, Scotland, UK, KY15 4JB Tel: 01334 658800 Fax: 01334 658888.

FORTH VALLEY ORCHARDS' INITIATIVE

CERTIFICATE IN ORCHARD CARE & MANAGEMENT 2011 / 2012 COURSE APPLICATION FORM

Name:		Telephone:	
Address:		Mobile:	
Post Code:		Email:	

Please tell us why you would like to apply for this course:

Please tell us how you would pass on your expertise learned on this course to other members of your community:

Eligibility

I am a *resident / work in *Clackmannanshire / Falkirk / Stirling Unitary Authority Areas (please delete as necessary)

Assisted Places

- I am applying for an Assisted Place
- I am in receipt of State Benefits
- I am a young person between 16 and 25 years of age

Declaration:

I apply to become a course participant in the Certificate in Orchard Care & Management from October 2011 to March 2012.

Signed: Date:

Please return this application form to:

Diane Alderdice, Project Officer, Forth Environment Link, Offices 5 & 6, Earlsgate House, St Ninian's Road, Stirling, FK8 2HE. Tel: 01786 449215, Email: diane@forthenvironmentlink.org.



The Forth Valley Orchard Initiative is funded by the Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund. The Central Scotland Green Network Orchard Grant Scheme 2011/2012, which is part of the initiative, covers the whole of the CSGN area.