

ACS Distance Education



Horticulture Industry Brightening in Australia

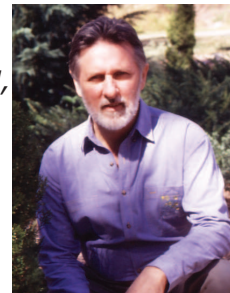
The Horticulture industry in Australia is looking brighter than it has in decades. There is a huge demand for Horticulturists, caused by a growing demand for horticultural production, especially within emerging industrial countries such as China and India. Increasing fuel costs have also contributed to a renewed focus on the Horticulture industry as the use of ethanol, a plant based fuel alternative, becomes more popular worldwide. These changes have led to an undersupply of horticultural graduates, combined with a lack of appropriate horticultural courses, particularly due to many horticultural schools closing down in recent years. Throughout all of this, ACS Distance Education has remained steady in its delivery of Horticultural courses, supplying a broad range of courses and offering experienced and knowledgeable tutors to meet rising demands within this industry.



ACS PRINCIPAL

John L. Mason
*Dip. Hort Sc.,
Sup'n Cert., FIOH,
FPLA, MAIH,
MACHPER, MASA*

ACS Distance
Education
Principal John
Mason has
had over 35



years experience in the fields of Horticulture, Recreation, Education and Journalism. He has extensive experience both as a public servant, and as a small business owner. He has held positions ranging from Director of Parks and Recreation (City of Essendon) to Magazine Editor.

John is a well respected member of many professional associations, and author of over thirty five books and more than two thousand magazine articles. Even today, John continues to write books for various publishers including Simon and Shuster, and Landlinks Press (CSIRO Publishing).

Meet Some of Our Tutors!



Adriana Fraser *Cert. Hort., Cert. Child Care., Adv. Cert. App. Mgt., Cert 1V Assessment and Training., Adv. Dip. Hort.*

Adriana has over 25 years of experience in horticulture and organic growing, business, project management and writing. She has worked extensively in the nursery and garden design industry, and in community education. She writes regularly for a range of publications since the 1980's. She continues to be actively involved in writing, gardening and organic growing - in addition to her work for ACS as tutor, course counsellor and course writer.



Maggie Brown *RHS Cert. Hort. Ed., Member RHS Life Member Garden Organic (HDRA)* Maggi is regarded as an expert in organic growing throughout the

UK, having worked for two decades as Education Officer at the world renown Henry Doubleday Research Assoc. She has been active in education, environmental management and horticulture across the UK for more than 3 decades.

FREE CAREER & COURSE COUNSELLING

Email or speak to our professional horticulturist for advice on how to kick-start your career.

www.thecareersguide.com

RHS CERTIFICATE II in HORTICULTURE

- 150 hrs of study
- Over 150,000 words
- Hundreds of illustrations
- Hundreds of interactive self assessment tests
- Ten assignments
- UK Accredited, but relevant worldwide
- Certificate is awarded by the RHS following two 1.5 hr exams conducted by the RHS (exams can be sat anywhere in the world)

Provides a foundation for a career in horticulture anywhere in the world. Broad based covering everything from landscaping and turf to crop production, propagation and plant health.

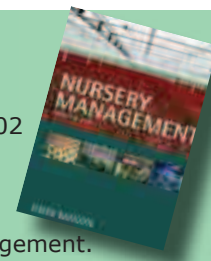
What sets this apart from other foundation certificates?

More science (botany, soil, etc.) and more plant identification.



Special Offer

Enrol in Certificate in Horticulture (Propagation) VHT002 within the next month and receive a signed copy of John Mason's book Nursery Management.



Qualify as a Plant Specialist

- A foundation for a career as a nurseryman, plant breeder or specialist garden manager
- Professional development for qualified horticulturists

Specialist plantsmen and women are enthusiasts. Some are plant breeders. Others run nurseries which are a unique source of rare plants, which might otherwise be lost to horticulture. Some are collectors, perhaps maintaining unique gardens supported by government or tourism. All are national treasures, pivotal to supplying the broader horticulture industry with new plants and sustaining the diversity of the past.

ACS is the only college in the world that has developed a wide range of "specialist" plant courses to provide formal training as a Plant Specialist. Each of these teaches you the identification, culture and uses for plants within a particular specialist plant group. Courses include:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Australian Natives | • Fuchsias |
| • Australian Wildflowers | • Geraniums & Pelargoniums |
| • Acacias | • Grevilleas |
| • Australian Native Trees | • Herb Culture |
| • African Violets | • Indoor Plants |
| • Annuals | • Medicinal Herbs |
| • Azaleas & Rhododendrons | • Mushroom Production |
| • Berries | • Nut Production |
| • Bonsai | • Orchids |
| • Cacti and Succulents | • Palms & Cycads |
| • Carnivorous Plants | • Perennials |
| • Conifers | • Proteas |
| • Culinary Herbs | • Roses |
| • Eucalypts | • Scented Plants |
| • Ferns | • Tropical Plants |



OTHER COURSES FOR NURSERYMEN & STAFF

Detailed outlines available on request for the following:

- Advanced Diploma in Horticulture – Nursery
- Advanced Certificate – Retail Nursery
- Advanced Certificate – Wholesale Nursery
- Certificate in Horticulture – Propagation
- Cutting Propagation
- Garden Centre Management
- Nursery Growers Course
- Nursery Hands Course
- Nursery Sales Assistant
- Plant Breeding
- Propagation I
- Seed Propagation
- Tissue Culture
- Wholesale Nursery Management

FREE CAREER & COURSE COUNSELLING

Email or speak to our qualified staff for advice on how to kickstart your career.

www.thecareersguide.com



Orchids, Roses and Tropical Plants - Courses Revised and Online!

These three courses have all undergone a major upgrade. New, up to date information has been added including interactive self assessment tests where the computer asks you questions, and only after answering, does it allow you to check your success. These tests are a great way to monitor your own learning and revise information before an exam. Outlines of these courses can be found on the web at www.hortcourses.com or in our handbook.

Feature Course — Major Upgrade NURSERY SALES ASSISTANT

Our Nursery Sales Assistant Course has recently undergone a major update to the Sales Skills in a Nursery section. Many nursery sales assistants are passionate about plants, but lack the necessary sales skills to boost sales. Others have a good selling ability but lack the plant knowledge needed to assist customers and really 'sell' the product.

The Nursery Sales Assistant course has been developed to provide the necessary balance between plant knowledge

and sales skills. Nursery staff will learn all about plant identification, plant care, how to advise customers and all about important sales secrets that will boost your bottom line. This course will train staff on how to 'open' and most importantly, 'close' a sale!

Other valuable information in the course includes:

- Plant identification and classification
- Plant care (planting techniques, soils, plant nutrition and pest control)

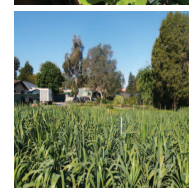
SHORT COURSE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

No need to attend classes.

Work at your own pace.

- Creating different moods in a garden using plants
- Plant placement – the right plant to suit a customer's needs, climate, and garden
- Communication skills
- Sales techniques

Having a good knowledge of plant selection and plant care enables your staff to give correct and helpful advice to customers, which will encourage them to keep coming back! Nursery owners: Get your staff fully trained by enrolling them today!



See our e-zine at www.acsgarden.com

NEW LANDSCAPE COURSES

Two unique 100 hour short courses for people already working in Landscaping; based on curriculum from the RHS M.Hort. qualification.

- Planning Layout and Construction of Ornamental Gardens – Provides an indepth understanding of planning development of the hard landscape.
- Restoring Established Ornamental Gardens – Learn to survey, analyse and plan sensitive and appropriate renovation of historic gardens.

Other Landscaping Courses

- Advanced Diploma in Landscaping
- Diploma in Landscaping
- Certificate in Garden Design
- Cottage Garden Design
- Landscape Construction
- Landscaping I
- Landscaping II
- Landscape Styles
- Natural Garden design
- Planning Layout and Construction of Ornamental Gardens
- Plant Selection and Establishment
- Playground Design
- Restoring Established Ornamental Gardens
- Water Gardening

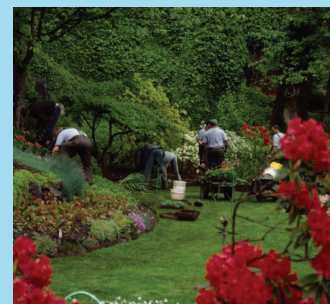
Get Qualified!

If you want a more interesting job, there's no reason you can't retrain - start an entirely new career, or get qualified in the area you're in now!

HORTICULTURE CERTIFICATE QUALIFICATIONS

Diploma in Landscaping

The demand for skilled landscapers and landscape designers is booming right now! Give yourself a truly competitive edge with this unique **landscaping** course. It not only covers all that you need to know about **landscaping**, it also gives you essential and extensive training in horticulture fundamentals and workplace practices and requirements. Gain a truly solid **landscaping** qualification from one of the most respected schools in this field. This course is internationally accredited through I.A.R.C.

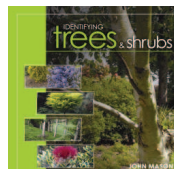


Certificate in Horticulture (Landscaping & Garden Design)

- 700hr program, self paced, study anywhere, any time
 - Accredited by I.A.R.C.
 - 15 lessons provide a broad foundation in horticulture
 - 15 lessons focus on landscape design and construction
- Together the 30 lessons provide an understanding of soils, plant culture, pest management, garden construction, a capacity to identify hundreds of plants, the ability to design gardens, and more.

PLANT IDENTIFICATION MADE EASY

Plant identification is the most in demand skill in horticulture.



Without it, you may destroy valuable plants instead of weeds, and have great difficulty deciding what plant to grow where. There's a system to identifying plants though, and once you understand how the system works, it becomes much easier to remember plant names.

There are two ways to get a handle on that system:

1. Study Horticulture II – It takes 100 hrs, but if you have the time, this is the best choice.
2. Buy and watch our Plant Identification DVD's. Over 3.5 hrs you see more than 600 different plants and learn how the "system" works. Watch these repeatedly and your ability to identify plants will improve markedly.

Purchase these at www.acsbookshop.com

START A GARDENING BUSINESS

More people employ gardeners to mow their lawns & control weeds than ever before; but it's still hard to find a gardener who knows how to keep plants healthy and can tell the difference between a prized plant and a weed!

Three Steps to a Successful Gardening Business

1st Get a solid foundation in horticulture

How? Study either horticulture I or RHS Certificate II

2nd Build your plant identification skills (absolutely essential if you are to tell the difference between a weed and a plant.)

How? Study Horticulture II OR buy and study our collection of Plant Identification Videos

3rd Develop small business skills

How? Study Starting a Small Business course

What about Fast Tracking?

Doing a fast track course might be trendy and appealing, but at the end of the day, you can't get the skills you need to earn top dollar by doing a fraction of the training.



Cut Flower Course

Fully Revised
and
Now Online

Cut Flower Production has been recently revised and prepared for study online. The 100 hour course now includes interactive self assessment tests, and expanded course notes (now over 90,000 words). It's also available for study on a take anywhere CD.

Contact us today

www.hortcourses.com

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Upgrade your knowledge, skills and qualifications
- More study options than anywhere!
- More Choice than anywhere for horticultural study!

New Horticultural Management Courses

- New high level horticultural management courses
- Ideal professional development programs for practicing horticulture managers
- Modules developed by The Royal Horticultural Society as part of their M.Hort program
- Stand alone programs, start any time, self paced

These 100 hr programs include:

Amenity Horticulture I - Develops a capacity to establish & manage sites with sensitive consideration to both environmental and human concerns

Amenity horticulture II - Complements and builds on Amenity Horticulture I, but has a stronger focus on planning.

Operational Business Management I - Focuses on economics, planning and marketing in horticulture.

Operational Business Management II - Focuses on legal, contractual and staff management issues in horticulture.

WHAT ARE EMPLOYERS WANTING IN GRADUATES?

Research has shown that many university and college courses are not developing sufficient communication and problem solving skills. At ACS we are very conscious that graduates are more successful if they have a stronger capacity to communicate and problem solve in their chosen field of study. Our courses differ from other colleges in many ways including:

- Set tasks involve interacting with people in industry, conducting research and communicating with tutors one on one in order to build self confidence and stronger communication skills.
- Every student is treated as a unique individual to nurture those who are "slow and steady" learners rather than letting them fall through the cracks as is the case in some other colleges.
- Courses are experiential based rather than competency based (i.e. we emphasise learning through experience).
- Problem Based Learning methods (developed in American universities) have been adapted and introduced into our courses.
- Relevant to any country, culture or economy. We believe education needs to be more generic than what most colleges teach in order to produce graduates who can better adapt to change.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE ACS NEWSLETTER

and receive news on special offers, new services, courses, free stuff and more...

NEW HANDBOOK HOT OFF PRESS

The new 88 page 2009-10 Handbook is now available. We are happy to post you a copy FREE.

Email: admin@acs.edu.au

MORE COURSES NOW AVAILABLE ON CD

Turf Care

- Revised and expanded course notes
- New interactive self assessment tests
- Over 50,000 words
- 100 hrs self paced easy learning.

- 5% DISCOUNT on course fees
- Outline available on request.

Other Turf courses include:

- *Sports Turf Management
- *Turf Repair & Renovation
- *Certificates & Diplomas

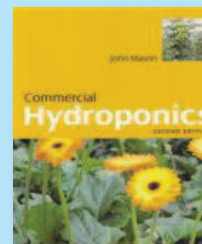
Arboriculture

- 100 hr foundation course
- Fully revised & updated with new self assessment tests

- 5% DISCOUNT on CD course fees
- Ask for details on this and other Arboriculture Courses

HYDROPONICS EXPERTS AT ACS

Two of the worlds most recognized hydroponics experts are amongst the staff offering courses and books at ACS.



John Mason's book "Commercial Hydroponics" has been a standard reference for almost 2 decades. Dr. Lyn Morgan has worked on 4 continents as a hydroponic consultant, and like John is a widely published hydroponic author. Books by John and Lyn are available through our bookshop www.acsbookshop.com. The school also offers a range of unique hydroponic courses, both for amateurs & professionals.

Hydroponics courses include:

- Hydroponics
- Hydroponic Management
- Certificate in Hydroponics

Start Your Own Gardening School

Studies have shown that the demand for horticulture graduates is far greater than what current colleges can provide. ACS is helping to meet this demand through an affiliates program which is licensing the use of our courses. If you want to start your own gardening school, there might never be a better time. We can show you how and provide most of what's needed to make it work. For more information on our affiliates program, email or phone our marketing officer, Kate Gibson (kate@acs.edu.au)

ACS Distance Education

PO Box 2092 Nerang MDC QLD 4211 AUSTRALIA PH 07 55621088

www.acs.edu.au - admin@acs.edu.au