



Design Concept
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Lecturers in Horticulture

Design and Construction
Level 3 Students
in Horticulture

RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2024
Stand GPA004

#RHSChelsea

Head of Horticulture Bill Boyd at Sparsholt College Group 1960



An Overview

2024 marks the 125th anniversary of offering horticultural education at Sparsholt College Group. Sparsholt College Group started in Old Basing, Basingstoke in 1899 as the Hampshire Farm School. Moving to Sparsholt near Winchester in 1914, the college and its students have been influential within horticulture over the years and aim to continue this in the future.

Plants, Routes & Branches explores the history of plant introductions from Hampshire, whilst celebrating the impact of prominent horticulturists and the role the college has played.

Within the garden, we also look to the future generation of horticulturists, exploring the numerous and exciting career routes they may follow. This includes continual developments of new plants, showcased through the RHS Plant of the Year competition.

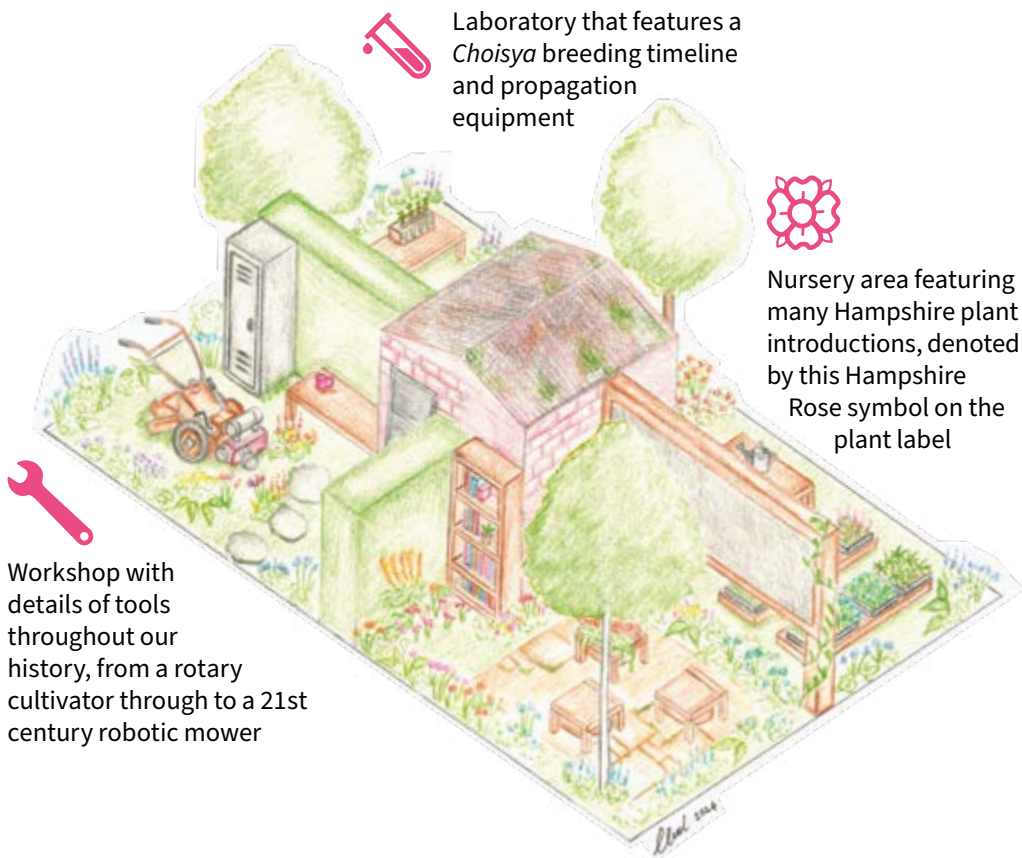
The display aims to signpost some of the potential career routes and opportunities

provided by the horticultural industry for both new learners and those looking to branch out in their careers, with the support of our sponsor, The Colegrave Seabrook Foundation, which helps students in horticulture in various ways. They include recent Sparsholt students Jess and Alice featured on colegraveseabrookfoundation.org.uk



Students in our orchard at Sparsholt College Group 2024

Our successful and dynamic education approach, combining classroom and hands-on learning and work experience, whilst harnessing the latest technology, is showcased in our exhibit. The design consists of four areas, all essential in supporting students of horticulture to become dedicated industry professionals.



Laboratory that features a *Choisya* breeding timeline and propagation equipment



Nursery area featuring many Hampshire plant introductions, denoted by this Hampshire Rose symbol on the plant label



Workshop with details of tools throughout our history, from a rotary cultivator through to a 21st century robotic mower



Traditional classroom and interactive plant identification test, a constant and vital learning method

With this garden, we hope to showcase the phenomenal variety of career routes within horticulture and celebrate Hampshire and Sparsholt's horticultural contribution.

The Colegrave Seabrook Foundation

A career in horticulture is full of opportunity. More and more young people and career changers are seeing the benefits of training in this modern, worthwhile industry, realising what a huge range of different career paths are available to them as a result of gaining a professional horticultural qualification.

The Foundation works with colleges and universities in the UK, directly supporting students in their studies and careers, realising ambition and creating opportunities to develop, experience and learn. From the craft of propagation

to the technical skills of plant breeding and research, horticulture is at the leading edge of environmental stability for the future of our planet.

Growers, scientists, retailers, marketers, teachers, environmentalists, designers, technicians are all roles linked to modern horticulture – something for everyone and all supported by the work of the Foundation.

If you would like to find out more about the Foundation and horticulture as a career then please visit our website, colegraveseabrookfoundation.org.uk

Interactive Plant Quiz

We hope you enjoy our plant quiz – follow the numbers within our garden and record your answers here:

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 1 | 6 |
| 2 | 7 |
| 3 | 8 |
| 4 | 9 |
| 5 | 10 |



◀ Scan the QR code to view the answers on our website



Production of pot plants at Sparsholt College Group 1950s



Production of pot plants at Sparsholt College Group 2024

Plants for the Future

RHS Plant of the Year 2024 Entries

Innovative, varied and low-input 2024 plant introductions, including three offerings from Hillier Nurseries, Hampshire:



Philadelphus PETITE PERFUME WHITE ('W1') – suited to a modern garden, this compact, naturally branching, free flowering plant has an intense fragrance and a flower which has an almost cruciform look, with recurved petals that is quite unique for this genus. Bred by Hillier Propagator Alan Postill.



Mahonia eurybracteata subsp. *ganpinensis* METEOR ('HILLMAH') – deep green leaves, dense globose habit, deep red foliage in spring and a flush of yellow flowers from August to November give this outstanding garden plant year-round interest, while the compact habit makes it suitable for a variety of spaces. Bred over a 12-year period by Hillier Propagator Alan Postill.



Sempervivum x Chick Charms® Giants GOLD MINE ('GGM2022') – a breeding breakthrough quadrupling the size of this genus, by Chris Hausen in the USA, this development is hardy, drought tolerant and easy to grow, with dramatic colouration and huge rosettes to 30cm across. Introduced in the UK in 2024 by Hillier Nurseries.



Petunia x *atkinsiana* NICOLA ('Kernicola') (Tumbelina Series) – bred in the UK by Tim Kerley of family firm Kerley & Co. it has sturdy performance credentials. The colour and flower shape is new, featuring a central flourish of petals with contrasting frame – a modern twist on a traditional summer favourite, great for baskets, tubs and borders.



Delosperma DESERT DANCERS RED ('FSDD2112'PBR)/Purple ('FSDD2117' PBR) – this dynamic series offering two cultivars with vibrant purple and red foliage during winter and spring and intense eye-popping purple and red flowers in summer is a year-round visual feast.

Sparsholt College was established at the end of the 19th century and is set in 183 hectares of beautiful Hampshire countryside. It is recognised as one of the UK's leading land-based colleges with a national and international reputation.

Students work with the grounds team to maintain the Horticulture Department, campus grounds and six hectares of sports pitches.

Sparsholt also delivers the Horticulture, Greenkeeper and Advanced Sports Turf Technician, Landscape Operative and Landscape or Horticulture Supervisor



Our Team left to right: Chloe, Quin, Jasmine, Hayden, Liam, Lucy, Chris, Joshua, Jessica, Charlie and Craig.

Apprenticeship Standards and trains up to 120 apprentices a year. A team of five sector specialists supports employers in the horticulture and landscaping sectors to develop the gardening talent of the future.

For more information please call or visit:

 **01962 776441**  **sparsholt.ac.uk**



Please scan for
indicative plant list and
further information

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their generous support:

Hazel, Keith and George Smith



Thompson & Morgan
Experts in the garden since 1855
thompson-morgan.com

