

Preface

Participants, instructors and assessors should take note of the conditions as laid down in the Award Handbook.

This programme is for guidance and is not to be taken as a rigid syllabus. To indicate the content appropriate to young people with varying degrees of knowledge and experience, it is arranged under three headings: 'For beginners', 'For those with some knowledge' and 'For the more advanced', and participants are free to select as broad or as restricted an aspect of this skill as they wish, but appropriate social and cultural aspects are to be covered.

NATURE

CACTI GROWING

Introduction

This activity should include as much practical work as possible preferably undertaken with others through a group or club. The study of types of growth and the social aspects of the programme should be covered in a group setting. Participants should also show some understanding of the historical development of cacti growing and its relevance to other groups in a world-wide society. The aesthetics of display should also be included at Gold level.

For assessment, each individual is to produce evidence of regular application to the activity over the required period. This may take the form of some kind of record, such as a diary, log book or sketch book.

NOTE: Plants develop succulence in response to a dry period in their native habitat; the water stored in stem or leaf, or both, tides them over the dry period when they are to rest. In cultivation the resting period is important if the plants are to be kept in good condition and the time of year at which it occurs differs for different kinds of plants. The rest period for cacti would, therefore, be taken into consideration when the six-monthly study periods are being assessed.

For beginners:

Award participants should:

- 1 Start to make a collection of cacti and keep them in good growing condition.
- 2 Know the main parts of the world where cacti are found.
- 3 Know the number of different species of cacti.
- 4 Know the characteristics of Succulents and Cacti.
- 5 Be able to describe the true cacti and the name given to the families of cacti and succulents.
- 6 Be able to describe the yearly watering programme for cacti.

Skill Section

For those with some knowledge:

Award participants should:

- 1 Continue to add to their cacti collection and produce examples for examination and discussion with the instructor.
- 2 Learn how to transplant and re-pot, the method and errors to avoid.
- 3 Describe the pests and diseases likely to attack cacti.
- 4 Know how to recognise pests and diseases and outline the treatment and preventive measures.
- 5 Describe a suitable compost for cacti growing.
- 6 Describe a suitable food or fertiliser for cacti and how applied.
- 7 Show an interest in exhibiting at Horticultural Shows or become a member of a Cacti Society.

For the more advanced:

Award participants should:

- 1 Add to existing collection.
- 2 Know the method of increasing stock - cutting, grafting, seed sowing.
- 3 Know the three main tribes of cacti (Pereskieae, Oputieae, Creeae), and some of the genera of each tribe.
- 4 Know some of the families of succulents.
- 5 Be able to name cacti from shown photographs.