

**Derwen College Horticulture Competition 2025**  
**Eco Challenge: Nature's Guardians**  
Entry 2 to Level 1



### **Timeline of events**

Horticulture students are invited to take part in a national competition held at Derwen College on Friday 28 March 2025

- Application deadline: Friday 14 February 2025
- Successful entries will be informed by Monday 24 February 2025 and must be available for the live final on Friday 28 March 2025

- Competition is open to all Horticulture students from colleges of Further or Specialist education, aged 16–25
- Competition is open for learners working between Entry Level 2 and Level 1
- Group entries of up to 3 learners welcome

### **Competition Task**

Join us for an exciting and educational competition designed to foster a love for nature and promote environmental conservation. Participants will engage in three distinct activities: a nature quiz, a weed identification task, and a build-your-own bug hotel challenge. This event is perfect for individuals or teams who are passionate about the environment and want to enhance their knowledge and skills in conservation.

#### **1. Nature Quiz:**

- Objective: Test your knowledge of local ecosystems, wildlife, and conservation practices.
- Format: Multiple-choice and short-answer questions covering various topics related to nature and environmental stewardship.
- Duration: 20 minutes
- Scoring: Points awarded for correct answers, with a bonus for particularly challenging questions.

#### **2. Weed Identification Task:**

- Objective: Learn to identify common weeds and understand their impact on local ecosystems.
- Format: Participants will be provided with a selection of plants and must correctly identify as many weeds as possible within a set time limit.
- Duration: 20 minutes
- Scoring: Points awarded for each correct identification, with additional points for explaining the ecological consequences of these weeds.



### 3. Build Your Own Bug Hotel:

- Objective: Create a habitat for beneficial insects to promote biodiversity in your garden or local area.
- Format: Participants will receive materials to construct a bug hotel, including wood, straw, and natural materials. Creativity and functionality will be key!
- Duration: 20 minutes
- Scoring: Judging will be based on design, creativity, and potential effectiveness as an insect habitat.

## Marking and Assessment

There will be one judge on site to ensure guidelines are adhered to and further judges who will judge the end product. Judging will be marked against the criteria:

- Use of Health and Safety (including PPE)
- Points from first two activities added to score the judge awards for bug hotel task.

## Additional Information

- Competitors will receive a Health and Safety briefing at the start of the competition
- Competitors will start and finish work as instructed by the judges
- Competitors will be given one hour to complete their activities
- Competitors must provide their own uniform / PPE
- Competitors who arrive late for the event will not receive additional time
- If, during the competition, competitors feel they must leave their work (e.g.: medical reasons, toilet break), they will have the time recorded on a 'time out' sheet by a member of staff
- The judges' decision is final
- Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third placed competitors, all others will be awarded a certificate of participation
- Photographs taken during the event may be used for marketing/publicity purposes. Students and staff attending the competition will be required to complete a form to confirm or deny consent to use their image
- Competitors must only receive agreed support that is outlined in their support statement. Support that is deemed to be outside that declared in the support statement could result in the competitor being disqualified from the competition

## Contact Details

For any further information, please contact Jennifer Fawcett-Jones, Head of Curriculum at Derwen College: 01691 661234 ext.318

Enter the competition at: <https://derwen.me/SkillsCompetitions2025>

