

# Horticultural Therapy Management – HTC5

## INSTRUCTOR

Lynn Leach, HTR

## EMAIL

landscape@birdsfoot.ca  
www.birdsfoot.ca

## CLASS LOCATION

Stedman Community  
Hospice  
445 Grey St.  
Brantford, ON

## FORMAT

In-person, Virtual  
Classroom and  
Supported Experiential  
Group Study

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is the fifth of five that comprise the Bird's Foot Horticultural Therapy Education Series and is worth 0.4 points (32 Contact Hours) toward professional registration with the CHTA. A Certificate of Attendance will be provided to students when all course requirements have been met.

\*Please visit the CHTA website for current information about voluntary professional registration

## COURSE FEES AND MATERIALS

The course fee is \$600 and includes instruction, evidence-based research and reference materials, plant material and supplies required for hands-on activities. Course fees are non-refundable and must be paid in full at the time of registration. Required textbooks are not included in the course fees.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

The Profession and Practice of Horticultural Therapy, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 2019 CRC Press, ed. Rebecca L. Haller, Karen L. Kennedy, Christine L. Capra. 384 pages.

Designing, Planting and Using a Therapeutic Garden, Sue Jeffries, The Crowood Press, 2023. 224 pages.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students explore the practical and financial aspects of HT employment, as they prepare to work as part of an interdisciplinary professional team or as a self-employed practitioner. Discussion will include ethics, professional communication and employment expectations related to pursuing a career in this field. Students will explore creating and working within prescribed budgets, funding resources, promotion of the discipline of HT and good general business practices. Students will be supported as they begin to find volunteer/work placements to fulfill CHTA requirements towards practical registration.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

DATES:	TIMES:	FORMAT	LOCATION
February 7, 2026	8:30-4:30	In-person	Stedman Community Hospice
February 8, 2026	8:30-4:30	In-person	Stedman Community Hospice
February 9 - 13, 2026	TBD	Scenario-Based Activity*	Virtual Classroom
February 14, 2026	8:30-12:30	Synchronous	Virtual Classroom
February 16 - 20, 2026	TBD	Experiential Activity*	Virtual Classroom
February 21, 2026	8:30-12:30	Synchronous	Virtual Classroom

\*Each of the instructor-led course activities will consist of a minimum of 4 contact hours.

## EXIT COMPETENCIES – CORE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

At successful completion of this course, students will have an understanding of:

- CHTA professional designation and titles
- Opportunities to promote and advocate for HT/TH principles and practice using social media and other tools in an ethical manner
- privacy and confidentiality protocols for work with individuals and groups, including requirements to use waivers for photographs and other forms of media
- responsibilities with respect to training, managing, and supporting volunteers
- financial management of HT/TH program budget
- strategies to acquire funding for HT/TH program
- relationships to management and responsibilities as member of a department or team
- prepare and/or comply with a stated budget as pertinent to the facility, client population, and seasonal programming
- effective communication skills with interdisciplinary team, management, and caregivers
- ongoing professional development in HT/TH and related fields
- Updates from the CHTA, including updated core documents
- Current opportunities to contribute to the CHTA
- CHTA Code of Ethics
- CHTA Professional Registration process
- research and evidence base that supports the use of HT/TH and therapeutic landscapes
- differences in wages, benefits, expectations, and working conditions for an employee vs. a self-employed contractor
- range of rates for those working in HT or TH and differences that apply with respect to types of qualification (e.g. HTR, HTT, or Horticultural Therapy Practitioner)
- proprietorship of intellectual and physical therapy materials
- employer coverage for worker's compensation plans
- professional and general liability insurance
- safety and risk management protocols (including, but not limited to: infectious disease control, fire safety, WHMIS, criminal record check)

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The Bird's Foot Horticultural Therapy Education Series offers a comprehensive look at the principles and practices for the professional use of horticulture as therapy. This five-module education series includes 160 hours of immersive study along with authentic experiential learning that focuses on the 'Core Skills and Knowledge' recommended for professional registration with the Canadian Horticultural Therapy Association (CHTA).

This challenging interdisciplinary program will focus on providing practical knowledge to support those wishing to pursue career opportunities in horticultural therapy (HT) and therapeutic horticulture (TH). Courses will also appeal to professionals currently working in healthcare, recreation, education, landscape design and horticulture who wish to broaden their skills and knowledge pertaining to the many therapeutic benefits of connecting people and plants. Students will have the opportunity to learn and practice HT skills in real-world settings, under the guidance of experienced HT professionals.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To provide students with a richer understanding of HT techniques and authentic HT experiences, classes are held in-person and via virtual classroom. Attendance and collaborative engagement are mandatory to earn a Certificate of Attendance. Students can expect additional study and coursework outside of specified contact/class hours. All course work must be completed and submitted within the parameters outlined by the course instructor.