



**GREEN THUMB:** Guru Rongoo's love of gardening has led him into a career as a landscape gardener.

## How to become a landscape gardener

**YOU MUST** get pleasure from working out of doors and getting your hands dirty, and must have an affinity for plants. You must enjoy constantly learning new things and understanding and applying scientific techniques, and you must have technical aptitude because you will be working with machinery.

In addition to the planning and maintenance of public and private estates and gardens, recreational areas and sports grounds, landscape gardeners can also be involved in the cultivation of flowers, plants, shrubs and trees.

**Qualifications needed:** A tertiary qualification would be an advantage, like one of the national diplomas from a university of technology, or a degree in horticulture.

**Where to train:** The B Tech and

**Real jobs,  
real people**



**By Sarah-Jane Bosch**

- **Today:** Guru Rongoo
- **Job:** Head gardener
- **Qualifications:** High school certificate
- **Place of work:** Le Touessrok, Mauritius

Every Monday Sarah-Jane Bosch interviews real people at work in Cape Town.

National Diploma courses in Horticulture; Open Space and Recreation Management; and Landscape Technology are offered at some universities of technology.

Stellenbosch University offers a BSc Agriculture with a major in horticulture, and a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation management.

**Expected earnings:** Landscape gardeners and designers with some experience can earn from R6 000 to R9 000 a month, though earnings of self-employed landscape gardeners and designers vary.

● **Contacts:** Stellenbosch University on 021 808 9111; Cape Peninsula University of Technology on 021 460 3911 or 021 959 6911.

