**HRT 1301 Practical Horticulture**

**Coordinators** Dr. Mildred Ochwo-Ssemakula BSc. (MUK); MSc. (MUK); PhD (MUK)

Mr. Gerald Kyeyune (ODST (Biology) Kyambogo; BBLT (MUK)

**Course type: CORE (BSc. Horticulture I)**

1. **COURSE STRUCTURE**

**Course Credits (CU): 5 CU**

**Course Duration: 10 weeks (75 contact hours) i.e. 150 PH**

**Course description**

This course is designed as an introduction to a scientifically-based practical approach to horticulture. Students are exposed to production practices applied in specific categories of horticultural crops and which practices they are likely to encounter in their career as specialists in horticulture. The emphasis throughout the practical sessions will be on the underlying science for past, current and future technology and how it is applied in practical horticulture.

1. **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

**General objective / aim**: Instil a culture of practicality in horticulture students to facilitate the application of theoretical knowledge

**Specific objectives**

* Facilitate the application of knowledge in agronomy and improve skills in application of these principles to production of horticultural crops
* Encourage an appreciation for the challenges faced by farmers in production of horticultural crops
1. **RECOMMENDED REFERENCES FOR READING**
* Rice L W and Rice R P. 2010. Practical Horticulture. Seventh Edition. 480pages. Prentice Hall. ISBN-10: 0135038669, ISBN-13: 978-0135038666
* Brown L. 2002. Applied Principles of Horticultural Science. Elsevier Publishers. Second Edition. ISBN: 0750653426
* Sharma V K. 1999. Encyclopaedia of Practical Horticulture (4 Vols.). First Edition. Deep and Deep Publications, India. ISBN: 8176291250
1. **COURSE CONTENT, METHODS OF INSTRUCTION, TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRED**

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| **TOPIC** | **CONTENT** | **METHOD OF INSTRUCTION / Time allocated** | **TOOLS / EQUIPMENT NEEDED** |
| **1. Fruit production** | * Recap (Importance, propagation techniques and agronomic practices)
* Field trip to a fruit experimental plot
* Field trip to Kituza Citrus Farm
 | Interactive lecture (1hr), Practicals (12hrs) | Computer, LCD Projector and screen, BB, chalk, Transport (30-seater) |
| **2. Vegetable production** | * Recap (Classification, nursery propagation, cultural practices)
* Tour of a vegetable production demonstration (NaCRRI/ MUARIK)
* Field trip to Mairye Estates Farm
 | Interactive lecture (1hr), Practicals (12hrs) | Computer, LCD Projector and screen, BB, chalk, Transport (30-seater) |
| **3. Spice production** | * Recap (Production and agronomic practices)
* Field trip to an experimental trial (NaCRRI/ MUARIK)
 | Interactive lecture (1hr), Practicals (6hrs) | Computer, LCD Projector and screen, BB, chalk, Transport (30-seater) |
| * Continuous assessment (I)
 | 1hr |
| **4. Group work (I)** | * Preparation of requirements
* Field preparation and planting
* Fertilizer application
 | Practicals (106hrs) | Seed, fertilizer, labels, sisal rope, farm implements  |
| * Continuous assessment (II)
 | 1hr |
| **5. Group work (II)** | * Application of appropriate agronomic practices (watering, weeding, pruning, fertilizer application, pest and disease management
 | Practicals (18hrs) | Pesticide, fertilizer/ manure, farm implements  |
| * Final assessment
 | 2hrs |

**5. SUMMARY OF TIME NEEDED**

Interactive lectures 3hrs

Assessment 4hrs

Field-based practicals 30hrs

Group work (Practical) 106hrs

**6. OVERALL COURSE EVALUATION**

Continuous assessment (I and II) 20%

Final assessment 20%

Group Work (I and II) 60%