Veteran Tree Management Skills Certification (VETcert)

Creating a Pan-European accreditation scheme
Creating a Pan European accreditation scheme
A video delivered by the VETree project

Halo clearance for veteran trees

Valuing and managing veteran trees

A training day delivered by the VETree project

BiskopsArnö, Sweden

Photo: Vikki Bengtsson
Fig. 4.15: A general guide to relatively “good” and “bad” times of year for pruning deciduous trees. The darker the shading, the better the time for most species.
Erasmus + Funded project
Raising standards in veteran tree care across Europe

Photo: Brian Cleckner
Objectives

- Recognise skills and knowledge in veteran tree management
- Define minimum skills and knowledge at 2 operational levels:
  - practising and
  - consulting
- Increase the opportunities for tree work professionals across Europe
VETcert Standards

- Different standards for the two levels; Practising and Consulting

- Available on the VETcert website: www.vetcert.eu

- English, Spanish, Swedish, French, Czech, Dutch
VETcert Standards

- Practising and consulting cover largely cover the same topics but at different levels.

- Units vary in size (2 knowledge criteria to 25 knowledge criteria)

- 12 Units
VETcert Standards - units

- Veteran trees; recognition and values
- The development and aging of trees: the role of physiological function and dysfunction
- Roots of veteran trees and the soil environment
- Veteran trees as ecosystems
- Veteran trees: their value for people
- Veteran trees; their cultural history values
VETcert Standards - units

- Surveying of veteran trees and veteran tree sites
- Legislation and official guidance in relation to veteran trees
- Veteran tree risk management
- Veteran trees: planning for urban development and infrastructure
- Veteran tree management in all its aspects
- Personal skills
To support people working towards VETcert new training material has been produced
Two day advanced training course: Understanding & managing veteran trees

Objectives

- Understand the principles affecting veteran trees that influence their management
  - Rooting environment
  - Hollowing and fungi
  - Location and situation
- Undertake a survey and produce a management plan for a veteran tree
- Understand what affects the sustainability of a population of veteran trees
Filling the gaps: Fact sheets

- Cabling, bracing & propping
- Diagnostic tools & equipment
- Valuation systems
- Associated Species
Filling the gaps: Case studies

- Examples of what people have done, explanation & before and after pictures
- Discussion of possible options/alternatives
Filling the gaps: Videos

- 8 fungi films
- 2 pruning films
- Management of veteran trees in urban areas
VETcert Examination
Practising

- Candidates must meet prerequisites before applying.

- Exam 1 day long.

- Exams include multiple choice questions, written paper, oral questions and outdoor exercises.

- Exams seek to test knowledge and understanding - no climbing or cutting assessment.
### VETcert Examination

## Prerequisites - Practising level

### Options

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicant holds a level 3 arboricultural qualification.</td>
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<td>PLUS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Necessary chainsaw and climbing and/or Mobile Elevated Work Platform</td>
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Candidates must meet prerequisites before applying.

Exam 1 day long.

Exams include a written paper, oral questions and practical exercises.

Candidates required to submit a veteran tree management plan as part of the exam.
## VETcert Examination

### Prerequisites - Consulting level

<table>
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| Applicant holds a relevant level 6 qualification.  
PLUS  
Minimum 5 years relevant experience in total, of which 3 should be in consulting. |
| Applicant is able to prove knowledge and experience at an equivalent level as detailed above.  
PLUS  
Minimum 10 years relevant experience in total, of which 5 should be in consulting. |
The 1st VETcert

A true veteran!
Want to become VETcert?

Training

Exams

Managing Body
Exam cost

- Practising - £500
- Consulting - £600
- First exams in January
Want to become VETcert?

Register your interest

238 registrations so far
A video delivered by the VETcert project

3. Managing mycorrhizas