# Respondent 13 Interview Summary

Field: Ornamental horticulture

## Question 1 (1, 3, 7,12

* In general people are not interested in plants
* People working with me love plants
* They don’t think plants are interesting
* They don’t know a lot about plants and how they can be exciting
* They have become complacent towards how unique plants are

## Question 2

* Have had a decline in the number of students who register or apply for ornamental horticulture
* This year we had triple the number of students because we went out of our way to advertise the field, having big open days and displays on science days and workshops for schools and went to the Bot Gardens with information and so on
* All this advertising maybe showed them how interesting plants can be

## Question 3

* Broad approach
* However there needs to be some basic foundational knowledge which the students have to have because they will use this for the rest of their studies
* Second and third year modules should build up on this basic knowledge
* Just because it is a broad approach doesn’t mean it should be watered down
* Covering all the different aspects can make plants interesting

## Question 4

* Evolution is important
* Pathways and transformations of energy is important because the basic physiological systems are important
* Structure and function is the utmost importance
* Systems can be left for later
* Top two: structure and function and pathways
* Understanding why an organ looks the way it does in relation to how if functions will help you understand the concepts later on

## Question 5

* Process of science is important
* Interdisciplinary nature of science is important, different disciplinaries should be working together to give us a better understanding
* Gives example of PS study that ended up in the design of a water harvester
* We need to incorporate science and society because there are a lot of people who just do horticulture as a hobby but have a lot of knowledge
* Communication is very important
* Understanding data is a higher cognitive function
* Top Two: interdisciplinary nature and collaboration

## Question 6

* Evolution is a bit of a higher-grade subject especially when talking about taxonomy and so on, systems can also be higher level
* Can’t leave anything out, we need to look at science as a whole

## Question 7

* No, I hadn’t in that context

## Question 8

* People can be reluctant to change, especially if they have been doing the same thing for many years
* Often people who do change don’t think about it well and consider what the consequences are going to be and how it will influence the parties involved

## Question 9

* We need to make sure that the first years have a good basic understanding and knowledge of plants and how the knowledge can be applied in the industry
* It could help with interest if the lecturers make a connection between the knowledge and the application

## Question 10

* Its hard to change peoples minds and their mindsets
* People need to look at student numbers and realise something needs to change
* It’s really helpful for us to ask industry what they need to so they can tell us what they need in the industry and what skills they need their workers to have

## Question 11

* If you go to industry and ask them what skills they need then you can show people how the curriculum can change

## Question 12

* The most important aspect
* This is where they get to interact with the work and really encounter the plants and learn how to work specific equipment
* Things like working out concentrations and working a microscope
* Practicing the skill is so different to looking at it in a book or on a video