



Australian Government

AHCORG415 Manage on farm composting

Release: 1

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Modification History

Modification history

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 9.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to manage composting on farms according to recipes and in compliance with state regulations, Australian Standards, industry standards for organic and biodynamic production and agroecological principles.

The unit applies to individuals who take responsibility for their own work and for the quality of the work of others within known parameters, and use discretion and judgment in the selection, allocation and use of available resources.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Organic Production (ORG)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Organise for composting	1.1 Confirm composting technology, recipe and method to be used for raw material available and farm needs 1.2 Determine end product compost quality requirements 1.3 Identify composting site requirements 1.4 Identify health, safety and environmental hazards, assess risk and

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	implement controls 1.5 Select, check and use personal protective equipment (PPE) 1.6 Select, check serviceability and prepare materials, equipment and machinery for safe operation 1.7 Prepare composting site ready to receive materials
2. Prepare raw materials and compost on farm	2.1 Identify and collect raw materials and additives for composting according to recipe and quality standards 2.2 Pre-process raw materials into suitable forms for composting according to recipe 2.3 Mix raw materials into suitable compost mixtures for composting according to recipes 2.4 Handle feedstock materials according to composting method, available equipment 2.5 Maintain records for tracking batch according to workplace procedures
3. Manage and monitor the composting process	3.1 Manage compost batches according to composting methods 3.2 Use field testing procedures to monitor composting progress 3.3 Maintain records for process control indicators 3.4 Identify substandard composting indicators and rectify according to production process 3.5 Follow site biosecurity and hygiene according to workplace procedures
4. Inspect compost quality and maintain site	4.1 Inspect and assess finished compost to determine if quality indicators have been met 4.2 Implement biosecurity procedures for machinery and processing equipment between batches 4.3 Store raw materials and finished compost products according to workplace procedures

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
Numeracy	Perform calculations to a high degree of accuracy to ensure quality and repetition of compost recipe and outcomes

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCORG415 Manage on farm composting	AHCORG408 Manage on farm composting	Minor changes to Application for clarity Changes to Performance Criteria for brevity, sequencing and clarity Changes to Performance Evidence, Knowledge Evidence and Assessment Conditions for clarity Foundation Skills added	Equivalent

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

Assessment Requirements for AHCORG415 Manage on farm composting

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has, on at least one occasion, managed the production of compost on a farm and has:

- implemented and managed an on-farm compost system
- managed composting processes, record keeping and testing
- managed a composting site
- evaluated compost quality and implemented remedial actions where key indicators were lacking
- implemented enterprise work health and safety policies
- followed site biosecurity protocols.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- basic principles of composting, including:
 - different methods of composting
 - characteristics of raw materials used in compost
 - fundamental characteristics of compost quality
 - compost quality standards
 - steps in pre-processing compost materials
- batch documentation techniques
- site and equipment requirements for on-farm composting
- key process control stages critical to consistent compost production
- overview of systems and technologies used in compost production
- characteristics and categories of a range of compost products
- relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and regulations

- record-keeping requirements
- site biosecurity protocols
- agroecological principles
- principles, practices and inputs allowable under the industry standards for organic and biodynamic production.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated on-farm or in an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - composting tools and equipment
 - compost components and materials
 - personal protective equipment
- specifications:
 - workplace policies, procedures, processes
 - manufacturer operating instructions for equipment and machinery
 - safety data sheets
 - workplace compost methods, recipes and specifications
 - specific legislation and codes of practice and industry standards.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

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