



Australian Government

AHCPER208 Harvest permaculture crops

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	TP Version	Comment
1	AHCv1.0	Initial release

Application

This unit provides the skills and knowledge required to harvest permaculture crops. It requires knowledge of common crops used in permaculture systems, recognition of the maturity parameters of crops, grading characteristics, maintaining quality of produce, and the effect of adverse weather conditions.

All work is carried out to comply with workplace procedures.

This unit applies to individuals who work under general supervision and exercise limited autonomy with some accountability for their own work. They undertake defined activities and work in a structured context.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil.

Unit Sector

Permaculture (PER)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
1. Assess plants for harvest	1.1 Identify crops to be harvested according to the harvesting plan 1.2 Determine crop maturity 1.3 Confirm conditions are right for harvesting
2. Prepare equipment for harvesting	2.1 Select tools, equipment and machinery appropriate to the task being undertaken

Element	Performance criteria
	2.2 Carry out pre-operational and safety checks on tools, equipment and machinery according to manufacturer specifications 2.3 Select, use and maintain suitable personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. Harvest the crop	3.1 Harvest the crop carefully and safely 3.2 Sort and grade the crop as needed 3.3 Clean and maintain harvesting tools, equipment and machinery
4. Complete crop harvesting work	4.1 Employ safe manual handling techniques when handling containers 4.2 Move and stack containers in such a way as to minimise damage to the crop 4.3 Maintain temperature of the crop at the levels set by the harvesting plan 4.4 Transport crop from the field to the processing or storage area 4.5 Maintain containers in good working order

Foundation Skills

Foundation Skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

Range of Conditions

Unit Mapping Information

New unit - equivalent to QLD842IPA08B.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

Assessment Requirements for AHC PER208 Harvest permaculture crops

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Performance Evidence

The candidate must be assessed on their ability to integrate and apply the performance requirements of this unit in a workplace setting. Performance must be demonstrated consistently over time and in a suitable range of contexts.

The candidate must provide evidence that they can:

- assess plants for harvest
- prepare for harvest
- carry out harvest operations
- maintain harvesting equipment

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must demonstrate knowledge of:

- permaculture principles related to harvesting
- principles of sustainable horticultural practices
- crops common in permaculture systems
- harvesting techniques, such as:
 - selective picking or hand picking ripe from unripe
 - tree shaking
 - picking leaves rather than whole plants
 - cutting plants and allowing to regrow (eg leeks, spring onions)
 - thinning or removing weak or diseased plants from among healthy ones
 - end of season crop extension harvesting (such as hanging tomato plants to ripen indoors)
- equipment and machinery used in harvesting
- sorting and grading, such as:
 - removing out-of-type plants
 - removing physically damaged, unhealthy, rotten or immature fruit and vegetables

- grading of the crop according to variety, size, length, colour, maturity, blemishes, bud count and quality, being subject to seasonal and market forces
- storage, transportation and grading of crops
- methods of waste disposal causing minimal impact on the environment

Assessment Conditions

Assessors must satisfy current standards for RTOs. Assessors must also hold a nationally accredited Certificate III (or higher) in Permaculture to assess this unit of competency and/or have completed a Permaculture Design Course (PDC) and/or have completed the Permaculture Demonstrator Skill Set.

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