



**Australian Government**

# **AHCPER215 Assist with garden soil health and plant nutrition**

**Release: 1**

# AHCPER215 Assist with garden soil health and plant nutrition

## Modification History

| Release | TP Version | Comment         |
|---------|------------|-----------------|
| 1       | AHCv1.0    | Initial release |

## Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to assist with garden soil health and plant nutrition using simple methods and without costly equipment. It requires knowledge of simple soil testing techniques and how to improve soil health and plant nutrition organically.

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. Undertake simple soil assessment tests | 1.1 Prepare soil samples for testing<br>1.2 Use simple techniques to check the texture, pH, organic matter and soil life in the soil samples<br>1.3 Use simple techniques to read the probable soil condition using plant growth and insect or animal activity |

| Element                                               | Performance criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2. Add organic or allowable nutrients to improve soil | 2.1 Determine needs of soil for improvement<br>2.2 Add allowable additives such as compost, rock dust, manure and compost tea to improve soil<br>2.3 Use planting techniques such as green manures, companions, guilds and nurse plants to improve soils and plant nutrition<br>2.4 Protect the soil with mulch to maintain moisture and discourage unwanted growth                                  |
| 3. Monitor soil health                                | 3.1 Monitor the health of the soil through the seasons<br>3.2 Ensure soils are not over dry or over wet<br>3.3 Avoid salting or greywater sodicity if watering with reused water<br>3.4 Regularly check for health of soil organisms, nutrient deficiency in leaves, and signs of pathogen fungal, bacterial or viral action on plants<br>3.5 Monitor soil improvement and plant nutrition over time |

## 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.

## Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

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