



Australian Government

AHCPER409 Manage a permaculture seed bank

Release: 1

AHCPER409 Manage a permaculture seed bank

Modification History

Release	TP Version	Comment
1	AHCv1.0	Initial release

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to manage a permaculture seed bank. It requires the ability to plan seed collection, implement seed collection and maintain a seed collection in storage. Managing a permaculture seed bank requires knowledge of plant biology, handling and extraction of seed, treatment and documentation, collecting ethics, protocols and legislative parameters and storage techniques.

All work is carried out to comply with workplace procedures.

This unit applies to individuals who analyse information and exercise judgement to complete a range of advanced skilled activities and demonstrate deep knowledge in a specific technical area. They have accountability for the work of others and analyse, design and communicate solutions to a range of complex problems.

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. Plan seed collection for a permaculture seed bank	1.1 Analyse requirements for seed collecting, and interpret them for required seed characteristics and implementation issues 1.2 Identify opportunities for seed collection from field observation and liaison with other specialists in this field

Element	Performance criteria
	1.3 Identify and mark on a plan suitable areas and plants for seed collection 1.4 Select method of seed collection appropriate to the geography of the local area, size and type of plants and available resources 1.5 Determine and document quantity of seed to be collected from each provenance 1.6 Liaise with relevant authorities or owners and seek approvals where required
2. Implement seed collection program	2.1 Coordinate and schedule people, materials and equipment required by the seed collection program 2.2 Identify and obtain any permits and approvals required for the seed collection 2.3 Identify the seed and complete the required documentation
3. Maintain a seed collection	3.1 Check the quantity, quality and provenances of the collected seed 3.2 Check and monitor the health of seed collected and take remedial action where required 3.3 Control pests and conditions detrimental to seed health 3.4 Dispose appropriately of seeds that are non-viable owing to age or pest attack 3.5 Supply true to type and appropriately labelled seed to others 3.6 Record up to date details of seeds held in storage

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 QLD124RES09B.

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 AHCPER409 Manage a permaculture seed bank

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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:

- plan seed collection
- implement a seed collection program
- maintain a seed collection

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must demonstrate knowledge of:

- flowering biology of the target species
- biological signs which indicate that the seed crop is ready to be collected
- seed banks, such as:
 - community seed banks and networks
 - private seed collections
 - organic food production enterprises such as market gardens
 - community supported agriculture seed sources
 - community garden and city farm seed banks
 - supply of vegetative propagation for perennial plants
 - heritage and non-hybrid seed distributors
 - heritage and non-hybrid seed producers
 - permaculture plant and seed nurseries
 - community seed swaps
- methods of seed collection, such as:
 - hand-picking seeds or seed capsules
 - harvesting whole plant
 - collecting and ripening fruit

- collecting after felling
- using ladders
- climbing
- shaking
- high-powered rifles (licensed operators only)
- elevated platforms
- extraction of the seed from the collected material
- handling of the seed crop after picking
- storage of seed, such as:
 - bags or envelopes
 - appropriate containers
 - cool, dry location
 - dehumidifying agents (silica gel, wood ash)
 - oxygen exclusion techniques
 - freezer or refrigerator
 - pest deterrent mechanisms
 - light exclusion mechanisms
- documentation of the extracted seed, such as:
 - information on provenance
 - botanical name: family, genus, species, variety and/or cultivar
 - common names
 - brief plant description
 - identity of collector
 - date collected or use by date
 - quantity (by weight or number of seeds)
 - viability test results
 - organic certification of grower
 - growing instructions such as recommended season and spacing
- provenances of seed, such as:
 - location and growing conditions of parent plant
 - sub-catchment identification of seed from endemic native plant populations
 - species and/or varieties adapted to local conditions
- collecting ethics, protocols and legislative parameters, such as:
 - limits on quantity allowed for collection
 - limits on time period for collection
 - particular use or destination for seed
 - indigenous plant regulatory conditions

Assessment Conditions

Assessors must satisfy current standards for RTOs. Assessors must also have a nationally accredited Certificate IV or Diploma of Permaculture. Completion of a Permaculture Design Course (PDC) or non-accredited Permaculture Diploma is not sufficient at this level.

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