



Australian Government

AHCPMG310 Prepare, monitor and maintain biological agents

Release: 1

AHCPMG310 Prepare, monitor and maintain biological agents

Modification History

Release	TP Version	Comment
1	AHCv1.0	Initial release

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to prepare, monitor and maintain biological control agents for weed control prior to release in an experimental or field situation. Biological agents must be maintained and stored in an effective way to optimise its potency on targeted weed species.

All work is carried out to comply with the organisation's pest management plan.

The unit applies to individuals who work under broad direction and use discretion and judgement in the selection and use of available resources.

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

Pest Management (PMG)

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. Prepare and propagate bioagent media	1.1 Identify, select and access bioagent media to suit the host and target 1.2 Prepare required media 1.3 Apply laboratory policies and procedures for work health and safety, environmental sustainability and biosecurity
2. Obtain bioagent	2.1 Procure cultures from established sources and maintain

Element	Performance criteria
cultures	microclimate in transport to the laboratory 2.2 Transfer cultures to growing environment 2.3 Apply laboratory policies and procedures for work health and safety, environmental sustainability and biosecurity
3. Maintain and monitor cultures	3.1 Check cultures regularly 3.2 Maintain optimum environmental conditions to maximise culture growth and condition 3.3 Record observations and report abnormalities to the appropriate authority 3.4 Apply laboratory policies and procedures for work health and safety, environmental sustainability and biosecurity
4. Harvest and store cultures	4.1 Use routine monitoring of culture growth to identify the need for harvest and agent release 4.2 Determine harvesting program in line with program requirements 4.3 Complete harvest operations and transfer cultures to storage 4.4 Apply laboratory policies and procedures for work health and safety, environmental sustainability and biosecurity

Foundation Skills

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

Range of Conditions

Unit Mapping Information

This unit has resulted from the merging of AHCPMG303A Maintain biological cultures and AHCPMG405A Implement pest management action plans and is not equivalent to either of these units.

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 AHCPMG310 Prepare, monitor and maintain biological agents

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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:

- prepare and propagate biological agents according to laboratory policies and procedures
- transfer cultures to growing environment according to laboratory policies and procedures
- harvest and store biological agents according to laboratory policies and procedures
- monitor and keep records of observations and details of any abnormalities according to laboratory policies and procedures
- apply work health and safety policies and procedures in the context of own work
- apply appropriate sustainability and biosecurity practices in the context of own work

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must demonstrate knowledge of:

- laboratory procedures
- the range of media available for culture maintenance
- culture and media preparation techniques
- available biological control agents and their use
- the range of pest species that are to be targeted with biological agents
- biosecurity and quarantine requirements

Assessment Conditions

Candidates must have access to bioagent media and cultures, appropriate equipment and resources for the purpose of assessment.

Assessors must satisfy current standards for RTOs.

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