



Australian Government

AHCPMG313 Prepare, monitor and maintain biological agents for weeds

Release: 1

AHCPMG313 Prepare, monitor and maintain biological agents for weeds

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 3.0.

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 their potency on targeted weed species.

The unit applies to individuals who work under broad direction and take responsibility for their own work. They 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

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. Prepare and propagate bioagent media	1.1 Identify, select, fit and use personal protective equipment according to health and safety in the workplace procedures 1.2 Identify, select and access bioagent media to suit the host and target 1.3 Prepare required media according to workplace procedures

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	according to laboratory policies and procedures, and health and safety in the workplace, environmental sustainability and biosecurity protocols
2. Obtain bioagent cultures	2.1 Procure cultures from established sources and maintain microclimate in transport to the laboratory 2.2 Transfer cultures to growing environment according to laboratory policies and procedures and health and safety in the workplace, environmental sustainability and biosecurity protocols
3. Maintain and monitor cultures	3.1 Check cultures according to workplace procedures 3.2 Maintain optimum environmental conditions to maximise culture growth and condition according to laboratory policies and procedures and health and safety in the workplace, environmental sustainability and biosecurity protocols 3.3 Record observations and report abnormalities according to workplace procedures
4. Harvest and store cultures	4.1 Monitor culture growth to identify the need for harvest and agent release according to workplace procedures 4.2 Determine harvesting program according to program requirements 4.3 Complete harvest operations and transfer cultures to storage according to laboratory policies and procedures for health and safety in the workplace, environmental sustainability and biosecurity

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
Writing	Accurately complete organisational records of observations using clear language and industry terminology
Numeracy	Perform mathematical calculations for weights and measures in the preparation of media for cultures
Navigate the world of	Take responsibility for following explicit and implicit policies, procedures and protocols for laboratory and health and safety with

Skill	Description
work	bioagents
Get the work done	Take responsibility for planning, sequencing and prioritising tasks and workload

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCPMG313 Prepare, monitor and maintain biological agents for weeds	AHCPMG310 Prepare, monitor and maintain biological agents	Minor change of title for clarity Minor changes to Performance Criteria for clarity Updated Performance Evidence and Knowledge Evidence	Equivalent unit

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 AHCPMG313 Prepare, monitor and maintain biological agents for weeds

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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 on at least one occasion the individual has demonstrated that they have prepared, monitored and maintained biological agents for weed control, including:

- prepared and propagated biological agents according to laboratory policies and procedures
- procured and transferred cultures to growing environment according to laboratory policies and procedures
- maintained, harvested and stored biological agents according to laboratory policies and procedures
- monitored and kept records of observations and details of any abnormalities according to laboratory policies and procedures.
- applied health and safety in the workplace procedures, environmental sustainability and biosecurity practices.

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:

- context of biological agents used for weed control
- laboratory procedures for biological agents
- 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
- health and safety in the workplace for laboratories and biological agents, including:
 - use of personal protection equipment (PPE)
- environmental sustainability and biosecurity practices when using biological agents.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated in a laboratory suitable for handling biological agents or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live biological agents
 - laboratory tools, equipment and materials to produce and store media
 - PPE
- specifications:
 - workplace and laboratory policies, procedures and processes
 - safety data sheets
 - workplace instructions and specifications.

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

Links

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