



Australian Government

AHCSOL305 Prepare growing media

Release: 1

AHCSOL305 Prepare growing media

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 4.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to prepare growing media for various plants, including preparing for work, confirming specifications for growing media and preparing and storing the media.

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

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Soils and media (SOL)

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 to work	1.1 Clarify work instructions with supervisor 1.2 Prepare required tools and equipment for the task 1.3 Recognise workplace hazards and report safety concerns 1.4 Select, fit, use and maintain personal protective equipment according to the task and workplace safety requirements
2. Confirm specifications	2.1 Investigate and select various media components for specific plant

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
of growing media	requirements according to growing media specifications 2.2 Determine plant nutrient requirements for growing period 2.3 Determine growing media by plant requirements and accepted industry practice 2.4 Investigate sources of nutrients and their suitability for plant requirements 2.5 Analyse growing media for chemical, physical and biological characteristics to confirm suitability for plants 2.6 Determine and applied sterilisation methods for the growing media
3. Prepare and store growing media	3.1 Establish growing media composition according to specifications 3.2 Maintain mixing equipment in a clean and effective condition 3.3 Store components in a safe and hygienic manner 3.4 Weigh and mix components into the growing media 3.5 Dispose of waste in an environmentally safe manner 3.6 Store growing media in a safe and hygienic manner 3.7 Record growing media preparation activities according to workplace procedures

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
Reading	Interpret textual information from a range of sources to identify relevant and key information about workplace operations and products
Writing	Use clear language, accurate industry terminology and logical structure to prepare growing media preparation activity records
Oral Communication	Use clear language to confirm work instructions
Numeracy	- Access growing media specification data - Calculate and weigh growing media components

Skill	Description
Navigate the world of work	Recognise and follow workplace requirements, including safety requirements, associated with own role and area of responsibility
Get the work done	Take responsibility for routine decisions about confirming specifications, preparing and storing growing media, and reflect on outcomes to identify effectiveness of decisions

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCSOL305 Prepare growing media	AHCSOL301 Prepare growing media	Performance criteria clarified Foundation skills added Assessment requirements updated	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 AHCSOL305 Prepare growing media

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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 the individual has prepared growing media on at least two occasions and has:

- applied workplace health and safety requirements
- collected and analysed data
- confirmed specifications of growing media
- analysed growing media chemical, physical and biological characteristics
- disposed of waste in an environmentally safe manner
- stored growing media.

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:

- workplace requirements applicable to health and safety in the workplace for preparing growing media
- principles and practices for preparing growing media
- alternative pre-prepared growing media options, including coconut fibre bags
- alternative methods of incorporating ingredients into a growing media
- plant nutrition requirements for growing period
- ingredients used in the preparation of growing media
- physical, chemical and biological characteristics required of the media
- properties of the various ingredients used in the preparation of the growing media
- requirements of a growing media
- hygiene in the preparation and storage of the media
- volume and weight determination
- environmentally safe disposal of waste.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - work instructions and workplace procedures applicable to growing media preparation
 - growing media tools and equipment
 - growing media ingredients
 - mixing and weighing equipment
 - personal protective equipment applicable to growing media preparation
- specifications:
 - growing media specifications
 - work instructions and workplace procedures for preparing growing media
- relationships:
 - supervisor
- timeframes:
 - according to job requirements.

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

Links

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