



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

AHCBAC307A Maintain agricultural crops

Release: 1

AHCBA307A Maintain agricultural crops

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor	This unit covers the process of maintaining agricultural crops and defines the standard required to: monitor crops for levels of pests and diseases and moisture; implement pest and disease control strategies; monitor the health and maturity of the crop.
------------------------	---

Application of the Unit

Application of the unit	This unit applies to workers on cropping enterprises who operate under limited supervision from others with checking only related to overall progress. It is usually done within established routines, methods and procedures where some discretion and judgment is required in the selection of equipment and materials, organisation of work, services, actions and the achievement of outcomes within time and budgetary constraints.
--------------------------------	--

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not Applicable

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units		

Employability Skills Information

Employability skills	This unit contains employability skills.
-----------------------------	--

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Not Applicable

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
1. Assess agricultural crop condition, growth and requirements	1.1. Crops are monitored to assess their needs, and observations are recorded and reported. 1.2. Pests and diseases are identified, monitored and reported at nominated threshold levels. 1.3. Sites for regular measurement of soil moisture are established in consultation with directions. 1.4. Soil probe is used to measure moisture levels and soil water percentage calculated.
2. Apply fertiliser and amendments	2.1. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) hazards are identified; risks assessed and suitable controls are implemented. 2.2. Suitable personal protective equipment is selected, used and maintained. 2.3. Specialist sprays are applied according to label directions and industry standards for growth stages, taking into account specialist advice if required. 2.4. Chipping or spot spraying is carried out as required. 2.5. Crop growth stages and keys are assessed, recorded and reported. 2.6. Water is applied according to the identified need and the directions of management. 2.7. All applications are undertaken in the full consideration of adverse environmental impacts.
3. Monitor crop condition, growth and requirements	3.1. Crop maturity is monitored and the possible need for further applications is reported to the manager. 3.2. The health of the crop is continually monitored and deviation from expected growth and vigour is reported as required. 3.3. Observations of crop ripening are reported for the timing of harvest to be determined by contractors and property manager.
4. Complete cleaning and hygiene operations	4.1. Equipment is cleaned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications, organisational procedures and regulations. 4.2. All containers, leftover fluids, waste and debris from the maintenance and servicing work are disposed of safely and appropriately. 4.3. All required records and documentation are completed accurately and promptly in accordance with organisational requirements.

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

Required skills

- detect differences and variations in crop growth
- report/communicate such differences to the supervisor/farm owner
- observe and report on health and growth of the crop
- monitor pests and disease in crops
- assess crop maturity
- apply sprays and fertilizers as directed
- measure soil moisture and relate data to crop requirements
- use literacy skills to read, interpret and follow organisational policies and procedures, follow sequenced written instructions, record accurately and legible information collected and select and apply procedures for a range of tasks
- use oral communication skills/language competence to fulfil the job role as specified by the organisation, including questioning techniques, active listening, clarifying information and consulting with supervisors as required
- use numeracy skills to estimate, calculate and record routine workplace measures
- use interpersonal skills to work with and relate to people from a range of cultural, social and religious backgrounds and with a range of physical and mental abilities.

Required knowledge

- appropriate legislative requirements, manufacturer's instructions and organisation procedures/instructions
- potential hazards associated with the operation of basic tools and equipment
- general machine maintenance procedures
- machinery operating principles and safe operating methods
- environmental impacts associated with the operation of machinery and equipment in a harvesting context
- organisation recording and reporting procedures
- symptoms of crop lacking health and vigour
- signs of pest and disease infestation, moisture stress and nutrient deficiencies
- hygiene requirements for agricultural crops and equipment that comes into contact with the crop
- types and uses of herbicides, insecticides and other pesticides and alternative pest control methods (non-chemical)
- OHS and pesticides legislative and enterprise requirements.

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE	
The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.	
Overview of assessment	
Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit	The evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit must be relevant to workplace operations and satisfy holistically all of the requirements of the performance criteria and required skills and knowledge and include achievement of the following: • monitor crops for levels of pests and diseases and moisture • implement pest and disease control strategies • monitor the health and maturity of the crop.
Context of and specific resources for assessment	Competency requires the application of work practices under work conditions. Selection and use of resources for some worksites may differ due to the regional or enterprise circumstances.

Range Statement

RANGE STATEMENT	
The range statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole.	
Crops may include:	• wheat and coarse grains • cotton • grain legumes • oilseeds • sugar • temperate pastures • tropical pastures.

Unit Sector(s)

Unit sector	Broad acre cropping
--------------------	---------------------

Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units		

Competency field

Competency field	
-------------------------	--