



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

AHCPMG303A Maintain biological cultures

Release: 1

AHCPMG303A Maintain biological cultures

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor	This unit covers the process of maintaining biological control agents for weed control prior to release in an experimental or field situation and defines the standard required to: prepare and propagate bioagent media; obtain bioagent cultures; maintain and monitor cultures; harvest and store cultures.
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Application of the Unit

Application of the unit	This unit relates to maintaining biological cultures under limited supervision from others with checking only related to overall progress.
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Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not Applicable

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units		

Employability Skills Information

Employability skills	This unit contains employability skills.
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Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Not Applicable

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
1. Prepare and propagate bioagent media	1.1. Bioagent media to suit the host and target species are identified, selected and accessed consistent with enterprise procedures or integrated weed management strategy where applicable. 1.2. Required media are prepared in line with established procedures and laboratory policy.
2. Obtain bioagent cultures	2.1. Cultures are procured from established sources and microclimate maintained in transport to the laboratory. 2.2. Cultures are transferred to growing environment in strict compliance with laboratory policy.
3. Maintain and monitor cultures	3.1. Cultures are regularly checked as an integral part of work routines. 3.2. Optimum environmental conditions are maintained to maximise culture growth and condition. 3.3. Observations are recorded and abnormalities are reported to the appropriate authority.
4. Harvest and store cultures	4.1. Routine monitoring of culture growth identifies the need for harvest and agent release. 4.2. Harvesting program is determined in line with program requirements. 4.3. Harvest operations are completed and cultures are transferred to storage in accordance with laboratory policy.

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

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

Required skills

- identify Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) hazards and implement safe work practices
- prepare and propagate bioagent media
- obtain bioagent cultures
- maintain and monitor cultures
- harvest and store cultures
- use literacy skills to read, interpret and follow organisational policies and

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

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

- the range of media available for culture maintenance
- culturing and media preparation techniques
- laboratory and glasshouse procedures
- available biological control agents and their use
- the broad range of pest species that are to be targeted
- biosecurity and quarantine 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: • prepare and propagate bioagent media • obtain bioagent cultures • maintain and monitor cultures • harvest and store cultures.
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.	
Biological control agents may include:	• control agents for weed control, their maintenance and culture.

Unit Sector(s)

Unit sector	Pest management
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Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units		

Competency field

Competency field	
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