



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

AHCSOL301A Prepare growing media

Release: 1

AHCSOL301A Prepare growing media

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor	This unit covers the process of determining the requirements of a growing media for various plants and preparing and storing the media in accordance with the production specifications and defines the standard required to: confirm specifications of growing media; prepare growing media; store growing media.
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Application of the Unit

Application of the unit	This unit applies to the preparation of growing media for growing plants. The preparation of growing media and is likely to be undertaken without supervision. General guidance may be sought.
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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. Confirm specifications of growing media	1.1. Various media components are investigated for specific plant requirements. 1.2. Components of a growing media are determined by plant requirements and accepted industry practice. 1.3. Nutrient requirements are determined for growing period. 1.4. Different sources of nutrients are investigated for their suitability. 1.5. Growing media analysed for chemical, physical and biological characteristics to determine suitability for plants. 1.6. Sterilisation methods of the growing media are determined.
2. Prepare and store growing media	2.1. Growing media composition established. 2.2. Work is undertaken according to OHS legislation and codes of practice requirements. 2.3. Required equipment is maintained in a safe, clean and effective condition. 2.4. Components are stored in a safe and hygienic manner and in a non-contaminated environment. 2.5. Components are identified and weighed, mixed and incorporated into the growing media in accordance with production requirements. 2.6. Waste is handled and disposed of safely in accordance with relevant legislation and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements. 2.7. Work is undertaken according to OHS legislation and codes of practice requirements. 2.8. Media is stored in safe and hygienic manner in accordance with enterprise standards. 2.9. Records are kept in accordance with enterprise standards.

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

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

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE**Required skills**

- collect and analyse data
- interpret published research and historical records to identify acceptable media parameters
- interpret chemical labels
- record and store information
- weigh and measure volumes
- operate machinery
- co-ordinate own activities
- determine requirements and schedules of contractors and other work colleagues
- 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 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

- requirements of a growing media
- ingredients used in the preparation of growing media
- properties of the various ingredients used in the preparation of the growing media
- physical, chemical and biological characteristics required of the media
- plant nutrition
- hygiene in the preparation and storage of the media
- alternative methods of incorporating ingredients into a growing media
- volume and weight determination
- OHS requirements in relation to chemical use.

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: • confirm specifications of growing media • prepare growing media • store growing media.
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.	
Ingredients may include:	• those for growing media production and the range of plant requirements.

Unit Sector(s)

Unit sector	Soils and media
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Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units		

Competency field

Competency field	
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