

PIL103A Support plant care in a permaculture system

This competency standard covers the process of supporting plant care in a permaculture system under supervision. It requires the ability to prepare materials, tools and equipment for permaculture, undertake routine assistance, handle materials and equipment and clean up on completion of work. Supporting plant care in a permaculture system requires knowledge of safe work practices relating to basic plant and crop care techniques including planting, maintaining, picking and treating produce.

Element	Performance Criteria
1 Prepare materials, tools and equipment for plant care	1.1 The required materials, tools and equipment are identified according to lists provided and/or supervisors instructions
	1.2 Checks are conducted on all materials, tools and equipment with insufficient or faulty items reported to the supervisor
	1.3 Techniques used when loading and unloading materials demonstrate correct manual handling and minimise damage to the load and the vehicle
	1.4 Suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) is selected and checked prior to use
	1.5 Work support is provided according to OHS requirements and according to workplace information
	1.6 OHS hazards are identified and reported to the supervisor
2 Undertake plant care as directed	2.1 Instructions and directions provided by supervisor are followed and clarification sought when necessary
	2.2 Work is undertaken in a safe and environmentally appropriate manner according to enterprise guidelines and permaculture principles
	2.3 Interactions with other staff and customers is carried out in a positive and professional

		manner
	2.4	Enterprise policy and procedures in relation to workplace practices, handling and disposal of materials is observed
	2.5	Problems or difficulties in completing work to required standards or timelines are reported to supervisor
3	Handle materials and equipment	<p>3.1 Waste material produced during work is stored in a designated area according to supervisors instructions</p> <p>3.2 Materials, equipment and machinery are handled and transported according to supervisors instructions and enterprise guidelines</p> <p>3.3 A clean and safe work site is maintained while working</p>
4	Clean up on completion of work	<p>4.1 Materials are returned to store or disposed of according to supervisors instructions</p> <p>4.2 Tools and equipment are cleaned, maintained and stored according to manufacturers specifications and supervisors instructions</p> <p>4.3 Work outcomes are reported to the supervisor</p>

Range of Variables

The Range of Variables explains the contexts within which the performance and knowledge requirements of this standard may be assessed. The scope of variables chosen in particular training and assessment requirements may depend on the work situations available.

What tasks may be included under plant care ?	<p>Assistance with all activities associated with plants in a permaculture system such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land preparation, • seeding/planting, • maintenance • seed collecting • pruning • crop harvesting/picking
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What instructions may be relevant	Instructions may include Standard Operating
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to this standard?	Procedures (SOPs), enterprise policy and procedures, specifications, work notes, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs), manufacturers instructions, or verbal directions from manager or supervisor.
What tools and equipment may be required for horticultural production work?	Tools and equipment may include knives, secateurs, spades, forks, ladders, hoes, picking equipment, boxes, bins and buckets, hoses and hose fittings
What workplace information might be required for this standard?	Workplace information may include procedures for disposing of waste materials, work instructions or verbal instructions from the supervisor.
What OHS hazards may be associated with horticultural production work?	Hazards may include, solar radiation, dust, noise, air- and soil-borne micro-organisms, substances hazardous to health, sharp hand tools and equipment, animal and insect bites and stings, manual handling, holes, slippery and uneven surfaces.
What are the personal protective clothing and equipment requirements associated with horticultural work?	Personal protective clothing and equipment may include steel capped boots/shoes, overalls, gloves, sun hat, sunscreen lotion, safety goggles, face mask and ear protectors.
What waste materials may apply to this standard?	Plant debris, litter and other organic materials should be recycled, re-used, or disposed of according to enterprise work procedures.

Evidence Guide

What evidence is required to demonstrate competence for this standard as a whole?

Competence in supporting plant care in a permaculture system requires evidence that activities have been carried out according to instructions and within the required timelines. The skills and knowledge that are required to support plant care in a permaculture system must be **transferable** to different work environments. For example, this could include different tasks, crops and types of permaculture properties, or environments (climates).

What specific knowledge is needed to achieve the performance criteria?

Knowledge and understanding are essential to apply this standard in the workplace, to transfer the skills to other contexts and to deal with unplanned events. The knowledge requirements for this competency standard are listed below:

- Basic permaculture principles and practices
- Safe work practices

- Basic principles of planting in permaculture systems including aspect, companion planting, and soil/water/plant relationship appropriate to this level
- Basic plant care techniques and plant nutrition as supplied through composts, worm castings, green manures, animal manures and support species.
- Use of relevant hand tools and equipment

What specific skills are needed to achieve the performance criteria?

To achieve the performance criteria, appropriate literacy and numeracy levels as well as some complementary skills are required. These include the ability to:

- Prepare materials, tools and equipment for work
- Undertake work as directed
- Handle materials and equipment
- Clean up on completion of work

What processes should be applied to this competency standard?

There are a number of processes that are learnt throughout work and life, which are required in all jobs. They are fundamental processes and generally transferable to other work functions. Some of these are covered by the **key competencies**, although others may be added. The questions below highlight how these processes are applied in this competency standard. Following each question a number in brackets indicates the level to which the key competency needs to be demonstrated where 0 = not required, 1 = perform the process, 2 = perform and administer the process and 3 = perform, administer and design the process.

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| 1. How can communication of ideas and information (1) be applied? | Ideas and information about the job, tasks and problems should be discussed with other members in the work team and the supervisor. |
| 2. How can information be collected, analysed and organised (1) ? | Workplace and supervisors instructions should be located, interpreted and applied with further clarification sought as necessary. |
| 3. How are activities planned and organised (1) ? | Discussions with the supervisor and other team members may be required in order to complete tasks efficiently in a logical sequence and in a timely manner. |
| 4. How can team work (1) be applied? | Good communication and cooperation with other staff in completing tasks. |
| 5. How can the use of mathematical ideas and | Skills in counting, tallying and estimation are required when handling materials, tools and |

techniques (1) be applied?	equipment.
6. How can problem solving skills (1) be applied?	Problems will require corrective action or consultation with supervisor.
7. How can the use of technology (1) be applied?	Technology may be applied in the use of tools and equipment.

Are there other competency standards that could be assessed with this one?

This competency standard could be assessed on its own or in combination with other competencies relevant to the job function.

For information about assessing this competency standard for consistent performance and where and how it may be assessed, refer to the **Permaculture International Ltd Course Documentation**.
