

PIL202A Harvest, treat and store seed

This unit covers the process of harvesting, treating and storing seed from species common to permaculture systems. It requires the ability to prepare for harvesting of seed, harvest, treat and store seed. Harvesting, treating and storing seed requires knowledge of seed harvesting techniques, characteristics of mature, healthy seed, diseases & pests likely to infect the seed, seed extraction and storage techniques and permaculture practices relating to seed harvesting and storage.

Element		Performance Criteria	
1	Prepare for harvesting of seed	1.1	Seed harvesting and handling equipment is cleaned and transported to seed collecting site
		1.2	Seed that is to be collected is determined from enterprise instructions.
		1.3	Areas for treatment and storage of seed are located and prepared.
2	Harvest seed	2.1	Seed is collected using selected method in accordance with enterprise requirements, and any applicable conditions of permit or agreements with land holders.
		2.2	Where appropriate, the health of parent plants is protected during seed collection
		2.3	Seed is placed in clean containers and labelled to enterprise requirements
		2.4	Enterprise occupational health and safety procedures and practices are observed and followed
3	Treat and store seed	3.1	Seeds are separated from other materials according to enterprise requirements using available separation methods
		3.2	Seeds are treated in accordance with organisation requirements
		3.3	Where required, seed weight, place of origin, species, & container identifier are recorded in accordance with enterprise procedures
		3.4	Seeds are packaged for storage according to enterprise requirements, codes of practice & client requirements

Range of Variables

The Range of Variables defines the different contexts, work environments and parameters governing the performance of this competency standard. The variables chosen in training and assessment will need to reflect local industry and regional contexts.

What equipment may be relevant to this standard?	Pruning tools, sheets, tarpaulins, containers for holding seeds, personal protective equipment, and ladders.
What seed separation methods may be applicable?	Hand selection, wind separation/winnowing, sieving, vibrating, flotation and fermentation, drying and crumbling of husks.
What seed treatments may be used?	Heat, mechanical or other allowable non-chemical protection against pests

Evidence Guide

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

Competence in this unit requires evidence that seeds have been properly harvested, treated and stored according to enterprise guidelines and permaculture practices. The skills and knowledge required to harvest, treat and store seed must be transferable to a range of permaculture work environments, harvesting techniques, seed treatments and plant types.

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 unit are listed below:

- Permaculture principles and ethics
- Seed harvesting techniques
- Characteristics of mature, healthy seed
- Diseases & pests likely to infect the seed
- Seed extraction and storage
- Permaculture practices relating to seed harvesting and storage

What specific skills are needed to achieve the performance criteria?

To achieve the performance criteria, some complementary skills are required. These skills are:

- Prepare for harvesting of seed
- Harvest seed
- Treat and store seed

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? | By following verbal and written instructions. |
| 2. How can information be collected, analysed and organised (1) ? | By determining what seed can be harvested and how the health of parent plants can be protected where necessary. |
| 3. How are activities planned and organised (1) ? | By transferring the seed to the storage facility and ensuring the appropriate treatments are applied to the seed. |
| 4. How can team work (1) be applied? | During the harvesting and treatment of the seed. |
| 5. How can the use of mathematical ideas and techniques (1) be applied? | In calculating seed amounts collected and stored. |
| 6. How can problem-solving skills (2) be applied? | By determining the maturity of seed and how the health of parent plants can be protected where necessary. |
| 7. How can the use of technology (1) be applied? | In use of basic 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**.