

PIL209A Recognise plants and animals in a permaculture system

This competency standard covers the process of recognising plants and animals that are commonly encountered in permaculture systems. Recognising plants and animals is likely to be under routine supervision with intermittent checking by supervisors, requires knowledge of plants and animals commonly used in permaculture systems.

Element	Performance Criteria
1 Recognise plants and animals	<p>1.1 Plants and animals used in permaculture are recognised and named according to their identifiable characteristics.</p> <p>1.2 Brief descriptions of plant and animal habits, characteristics and significant features are recorded according to enterprise requirements</p> <p>1.3 The advice of supervisors is sought when necessary and where appropriate in the recognition activity</p> <p>1.4 Interconnectedness of plants and animals in permaculture systems is determined according to permaculture practices.</p>
2 Complete recognition of plants and animals	<p>2.1 Information about plants and animals is recorded as required by enterprise guidelines</p> <p>2.2 Rare, uncommon or notifiable pest plants and/or animals are reported to supervisor.</p> <p>2.3 Handling, transporting and housing of animals comply with permaculture principles, animal ethics guidelines, animal welfare regulations and statutory requirements.</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 range of plants and animals may be relevant to	Plants and animals commonly encountered in a permaculture system.
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this standard?

How will plants and/or animals be **named**?

Generally common names will be used in recognition of plants and/or animals however, in some situations scientific names may be required.

What identifiable **plant characteristics** may be useful when identifying plants?

Plant characteristics may include the shape, size colour, texture, presence of hairs and spikes on leaves, stem, fruit, flower or seed.

What identifiable **animal characteristics** may be useful when identifying animals?

Animal characteristics may include the shape, size colour, texture, hair, movement, habitat and behaviour.

Evidence Guide

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

Competence in recognising plants and animals requires evidence that a person can identify and utilise available resources and equipment to identify plants and animals accurately. The skills and knowledge required to recognise plants and animals must be **transferable** to a different work environment. For example, this could include different plants and animals, workplace settings and environments.

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:

- Permaculture principles and ethics
- Range of plant and/or animal identification techniques and nomenclature.
- Zone/sector role for plants and animals
- Enterprise procedures for obtaining and supplying advice and information about plants and animals.
- Enterprise expectations about the range and number of plants and animals to be recognised.

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:

- Recognise the range of plants and animals used in permaculture systems
- Describe attributes and main purpose within the enterprise of plants and animals

- Recognise specific handling requirements and growth requirements for plants and animals
- Describe interconnections and role/niche within the system for plants and animals

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.

1. How can communication of ideas and information (1) be applied?	Ideas and information relating to plant and animal recognition activities and problems encountered should be discussed with other members of the work team and the supervisor.
2. How can information be collected, analysed and organised (1) ?	Enterprise specific plants and animals should be inspected visually, research processes undertaken, and the information gained discussed with the work team and supervisor.
3. How are activities planned and organised (1) ?	Equipment, materials and work procedures for recognition activities will need to be arranged before and between work periods.
4. How can team work (1) be applied?	Plant and animal recognition activities may involve working with other members of a team to complete the program, or work alone with advice and help sought where necessary.
5. How can the use of mathematical ideas and techniques (1) be applied?	Measuring the length, regularity and period of identifying features will require mathematical application.
6. How can problem-solving skills (1) be applied?	Problems relating to the difficulty of recognising certain features of a plant or animal may arise.
7. How can the use of technology (1) be applied?	Technology may be applied in the provision of information about plants and animals to others.

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

This competency standard can 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**.
