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## Overview

This unit is about assisting with maintaining healthy plant growth. The equipment used in the unit may include clearing saws, brushcutters, strimmers, hand tools and personal protective equipment. The unit does not include coppicing or the use of pesticides.

The elements are:

1. Assist with maintaining the health of plants

This element is about maintaining the health of plants. Methods of contributing to the healthy growth of plants could include the use of water, fertiliser and/or mulches. This element also covers reporting any problems with the plants. Such problems may include, for example: pests, diseases, disorders, insufficient/too much water, physical damage.

2. Assist with controlling unwanted plants

This element is about controlling unwanted plants. Unwanted plants could include nettles in a play area, vegetation encroaching over a path, overcrowded plants, plants which have outgrown their site and irritant plants such as Giant Hogweed.

If you are using chainsaws you are required to hold the appropriate certificate of competence.

## Assist with maintaining plants

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

#### **Assist with maintaining the health of plants**

- P1 get the necessary tools, materials and personal protective equipment ready for the job
- P2 use the correct methods to **maintain the health of plants** as instructed
- P3 use the tools, materials and personal protective equipment safely and correctly
- P4 check the condition of the plants and report any problems as instructed
- P5 maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times
- P6 maintain hygiene according to instructions
- P7 leave the work area in a safe and suitable condition
- P8 clean the tools and equipment after use
- P9 store the tools, materials and personal protective equipment properly
- P10 dispose of waste safely and correctly

*You must be able to:*

#### **Assist with controlling unwanted plants**

- P11 get the necessary tools, materials and personal protective equipment ready for the job
- P12 use the correct methods to **control unwanted plants** as instructed
- P13 use tools, materials and personal protective equipment safely and correctly
- P14 report any problems to the correct person as soon as possible
- P15 maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times
- P16 leave the work area in a safe and suitable condition
- P17 clean and store the tools and equipment properly after use
- P18 dispose of waste safely and correctly

## Assist with maintaining plants

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

#### **Assist with maintaining the health of plants**

- K1 the reasons for maintaining healthy plant growth
- K2 the types of tools, materials and personal protective equipment you use for different jobs
- K3 how to get tools and materials ready for the job
- K4 how maintaining healthy plant growth is achieved and what the results should look like
- K5 how to use and store tools and materials correctly
- K6 how to maintain your own and others health and safety
- K7 how to maintain hygiene according to the needs of the industry in which you are working
- K8 which problems should be reported, when and to whom
- K9 how and why to clean and maintain tools and equipment
- K10 how to identify, by common name (not necessarily botanical Latin name), plants which are relevant to the area in which you are working
- K11 how to deal with accidental damage to plants
- K12 how to dispose of waste safely and correctly

*You need to know and understand:*

#### **Assist with controlling unwanted plants**

- K13 how to identify the unwanted plants that requires controlling and the non-target plants
- K14 the problems which may occur if unwanted plants are not controlled
- K15 the types of tools, materials and personal protective equipment to use for different jobs
- K16 how to use tools, materials and personal protective equipment
- K17 how maintaining healthy plant growth is achieved and what the results should look like
- K18 how to use and store tools and materials correctly
- K19 how to maintain your own and others health and safety
- K20 which problems should be reported, when and to whom
- K21 how and why to clean tools
- K22 how to identify, by common name (not necessarily botanical Latin name), plants which are relevant to the area in which you are working
- K23 how to deal with accidental damage to plants
- K24 how to dispose of waste safely and correctly

### Additional Information

#### Scope/range

#### Assist with maintaining the health of plants

1. **maintain the health of plants** in two of the following ways:
  - 1.1. using a mulch
  - 1.2. applying a fertiliser
  - 1.3. applying a material to prevent moisture loss
  - 1.4. watering
  - 1.5. maintaining the correct spacing
  - 1.6. observing and reporting problems with plants

#### Assist with controlling unwanted plants

2. **control unwanted plants** due to two of the following:
  - 2.1. excessive growth
  - 2.2. competing vegetation
  - 2.3. hazardous vegetation

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## Assist with maintaining plants

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**Developed by** LANTRA

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**Relevant occupations** Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care; Horticulture and forestry; Skilled Trades Occupations; Skilled Agricultural Trades; Personal Service Occupations; Animal Care Services; Elementary Occupations; Elementary Agricultural Occupations

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**Suite** Land Based Operations

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**Key words** Assist, maintaining, plants, health, controlling, equipment, water, fertiliser, mulches, growth