
Overview

This standard covers the maintenance and development of an established horticultural display. This could include formal bedding, hanging baskets and other containers, shrubs/bushes, climbers, mixed borders or rock gardens.

This standard is for those who are responsible for the maintenance and development of plant displays.

If you are working with chemicals or machinery you need to be appropriately trained or certificated in line with current legislation.

You must carry out your work in a way which will minimise any impact on the natural environment and enhance its nature, conservation and recreational value.

**Performance
criteria**

You must be able to:

- P1 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies
- P2 inspect the display matches specifications
- P3 identify suitable methods to promote plant health
- P4 select, use and maintain tools and equipment in a safe, clean and effective condition throughout
- P5 maintain the display in a way that is appropriate to the plants, their environmental conditions and the overall visual impact
- P6 provide plants with support where required to maintain growth and appearance
- P7 remove weeds and unwanted plant material to promote healthy growth
- P8 use appropriate and effective methods to deal with pests, diseases and disorders
- P9 use appropriate methods to promote and maintain healthy growth
- P10 deal with waste safely and correctly in accordance with instructions/legislation
- P11 restore the site to a clean and tidy condition
- P12 carry out work in a manner which prevents damage to the surrounding area

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies
- K2 why it is important to maintain and develop the appearance of decorative horticultural displays
- K3 why it is important to check the condition of plants according to agreed schedules
- K4 how the seasons affect the way you maintain plants
- K5 signs of damage and threats to plant health
- K6 stages of plant development
- K7 how to respond to signs of damage and threats to plant health
- K8 the impact of soil conditions on plant growth
- K9 how to water and feed plants to develop their condition in their environment
- K10 the effects of different types of fertilisers and their safe use as per manufacturers' instructions
- K11 the chemicals you can use for pest, disease and weed control and their safe use as per manufacturers' instructions
- K12 cultural methods of improving health and vigour of plants
- K13 the effects of base dressing, top dressing and liquid feeding
- K14 how to select tools and equipment appropriate to the maintenance of displays
- K15 how to use and maintain this equipment safely and effectively
- K16 how to select and remove unwanted plant material in a way which maintains and develops the visual impact of the display
- K17 how to ensure the positioning of plants and labels maintains and develops the visual impact
- K18 how to ensure support methods continue to support the plants' growth and appearance
- K19 why it is important to keep working areas clean and tidy during operations
- K20 how to handle, transport and dispose of waste in accordance with legal and organisational requirements
- K21 the potential impact of your work on the environment and how to minimise this
- K22 the importance of restoring the site to a clean and tidy condition

Glossary

Specifications: drawings, schedules, method statements, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), manufacturers' guidelines.

Instructions: verbal or written.

Threats to plant health: pests, diseases, disorders, unfavourable conditions, competing growth.

Methods to promote plant health: feeding, watering, surface cultivation, mulching.

Methods of dealing with threats to plant health: physical, chemical, cultural, irrigation.

Maintain and develop displays to achieve health, vigour and overall decorative effect by watering by hand and using rotary and oscillating sprinklers, applying nutrients in dry and liquid form by hand and using distributors.

Controlling pests and diseases and weeds by cultural and chemical methods using manual and powered equipment.

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Suite Horticulture

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