

LANH8 SQA Unit Code H53M 04

Co-ordinate propagation of plants from seed

Overview

This standard is for those whose role is to co-ordinate the propagation of plants from seed. Planting may be done using manual seed sowing equipment or seed sowing machines. You will be working unsupervised, and must be capable of taking responsibility for propagation.

You may be expected to coordinate the work of teams, however this standard also covers the co-ordination of your own work load.

You will need a good understanding of seed preparation methods, different growing mediums, timing of activities and aftercare requirements.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 assess the risks associated with the site and the required activity
- P2 ensure the working methods for the propagation of plants from seeds are established and clearly communicated
- P3 plan the timing of activities to meet the requirements of the specifications
- P4 identify and establish the availability of resources required for the propagation of plants from seed
- P5 ensure equipment is used and maintained in a safe and effective condition
- P6 establish measures to maintain suitable levels of hygiene and biosecurity
- P7 establish measures for the recycling or disposal of waste in accordance with legal and organisational requirements
- P8 ensure seed is of appropriate quality and meets specifications
- P9 ensure seed is prepared in accordance with specifications
- P10 ensure growing medium has been prepared in accordance with specifications
- P11 ensure seeds are handled in a way which minimises damage
- P12 prepare and implement the seed sowing programme
- P13 ensure seeds are sown evenly and accurately in accordance with specifications
- P14 ensure optimum environmental conditions are provided for germination
- P15 ensure seeds are labelled clearly and accurately
- P16 prepare and implement a suitable post-propagation aftercare programme
- P17 ensure the removal and hygienic disposal of unwanted seedlings
- P18 identify seedlings suitable for the next stage of the production programme
- P19 accurately identify pests and diseases and ensure appropriate action is taken
- P20 ensure appropriate records are completed as required by relevant legislation and the organisation
- P21 ensure that environmental and health and safety policies and risk assessment requirements are put into practice across your area of responsibility

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 how to identify hazards and assess risks
- K2 how to interpret risk assessments
- K3 factors which influence the timing of the propagation operation
- K4 the contents and requirements of the specifications
- K5 the effective and efficient use of resources when carrying out propagation of plants from seed
- K6 the equipment required for the job and how to ensure that it is used and maintained in a safe and effective condition
- K7 methods of maintaining hygiene and biosecurity and the reasons why it is important
- K8 the legal and organisational requirements for the handling, transporting and disposal of waste
- K9 the quantities of seed required and the planting ratios
- K10 how to identify type and quality of seed and recognise those which are substandard
- K11 different methods of preparing seed and the suitability of these to different seed types
- K12 types of growing medium and the reasons for choosing a particular type
- K13 methods for handling seed
- K14 types of machinery that can be used for seed sowing
- K15 the need for an even distribution of seeds
- K16 the correct depth of sowing for different types of seeds
- K17 factors affecting the rate and percentage of germination including alternatives i.e. non-chemical options
- K18 stages of plant development
- K19 the identification of substandard seedlings
- K20 health problems that can occur during propagation and the actions to take
- K21 pests and diseases which can occur during propagation and the actions to take
- K22 the importance of providing suitable aftercare
- K23 the importance of maintaining effective communication with those

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involved in the work

K24 records which must be completed and the importance of recording success rates

K25 your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies

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Glossary

Seed preparation methods:

- soaking
- priming
- temperature treatments
- stratification

Aftercare:

- humidity control
- temperature control
- light control
- provision of nutrients
- provision of water
- pricking out
- weed control
- pest or disease control

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

Instructions: verbal or written.

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