



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Specialised Field Crops

Unit code: F2EG 35

Unit purpose: This Unit will enable candidates to plan the production of a specialised field crop for a particular market outlet and develop an understanding of the methods by which crops can be propagated.

On completion of the Unit, the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Evaluate the nature and organisation of a particular field crop industry.
- 2 Evaluate how a specialised field crop is propagated.
- 3 Plan the production of a specialised field crop for a particular market outlet.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. However, it would be beneficial if the candidate had successfully completed the HN Unit F1Y4 34 *Arable Crop Production*.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Numeracy*, *Working with Others* and *Communication* at SCQF level 6, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Assessment: Outcomes 1 and 2 will be assessed under supervised conditions. The assessment of Outcomes 1 and 2 could take place as one assessment event in the form of a report or presentation. Outcome 3 could be assessed on its own using a report.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Specialised Field Crops

Unit code: F2EG 35

The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Evaluate the nature and organisation of a particular field crop industry

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Production areas
- ◆ Production trends in UK and EU
- ◆ Difference in production trends
- ◆ Grower organisations
- ◆ Regulatory bodies
- ◆ Market outlets
- ◆ Market standards
- ◆ Quality assurance protocol

Evidence Requirements

The evidence candidates will provide will be sampled using any six of the eight Knowledge and/or Skills identified above. In so doing, candidates will provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that, for a specialised field crop of their choice, they can:

- ◆ evaluate the major production areas and yields in the United Kingdom and in the European Union
- ◆ evaluate production trends in the United Kingdom and across the European Union
- ◆ justify the reasons for differences in production trends
- ◆ identify at least one grower organisation
- ◆ identify all appropriate regulatory bodies
- ◆ evaluate two market outlets for the crop
- ◆ describe four market standards which may apply
- ◆ evaluate one appropriate quality assurance protocol

The assessment of this Outcome should take place under supervised conditions. An alternative sample should be chosen for a reassessment event.

Assessment Guidelines

See Outcome 2.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Specialised Field Crops

Outcome 2

Evaluate how a specialised field crop is propagated

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Propagation techniques
- ◆ Vegetative propagative material
- ◆ Maintenance of plant health
- ◆ Classification and certification schemes
- ◆ Plant health schemes
- ◆ Royalties

Evidence Requirements

Evidence for the Knowledge and/or Skills in this Outcome will be generated through sampling. The sample will be based on four from six of the Knowledge and/or Skills listed above. A different sample is required each time the Outcome is assessed.

- ◆ evaluate three common propagation techniques
- ◆ explain three types of vegetative propagative material
- ◆ explain how plant health is maintained
- ◆ evaluate one plant classification and certification scheme
- ◆ explain two plant health schemes
- ◆ evaluate the role of royalties in plant breeding

Evidence should be generated through assessment in supervised conditions.

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with Outcomes 1. Candidates could be asked to produce a report or a presentation based on a particular specialised field crop of their choice. The instrument of assessment will specify the appropriate Knowledge and/or Skills to be covered in the assessment with differing instruments of assessment being used each year. Graphs and diagrams should be used where possible.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Specialised Field Crops

Outcome 3

Plan the production of a specialised field crop for a particular market outlet

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Establishment
- ◆ Nutrition
- ◆ Protection
- ◆ Harvesting
- ◆ Harvested product
- ◆ Market outlet

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that, for a specialised field crop of their choice in a specified area, they can:

- ◆ plan the establishment of the crop
- ◆ justify a suitable crop nutrition programme
- ◆ justify a suitable crop protection programme
- ◆ explain how the crop is harvested
- ◆ assess how the harvested product is stored
- ◆ evaluate two market outlets for the harvested crop

To allow candidates to widen their knowledge of specialised field crops, the choice of field crop should be different to the one identified in Outcome 1.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by a report of 600 words or equivalent.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F2EG 35
Unit title: Specialised Field Crops
Superclass category: SD
Original date of publication: August 2008
Version: 01

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2008

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of Higher National qualifications.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre for further details, telephone 0845 279 1000.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Specialised Field Crops

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The Unit addresses specialised field crops within the context of their production in the UK and the EU. Consequently, candidates will be expected to consider trends in performance data across the EU. Market requirements, quality standards and quality assurance schemes for different market outlets will be considered. Where appropriate, statutory bodies and grower organisations should be included.

Vegetative propagative material may include cuttings, tubers, runners and bulbs. Candidates should be encouraged to explore classification and certification schemes, plant health schemes and the significance of plant royalties and breeders rights.

The production cycle of the selected crop may refer to a farm or holding with which the candidate is familiar, and may use conventional or organic production methods. It should demonstrate an understanding of the rationale underlying agronomic practices, including (depending on the crop selected) equipment and mechanisation, variety selection, sites, soils, rotations, ground preparation, establishment, plant density, fertiliser application, irrigation, weed pest and disease control, physiological disorders, harvesting methods, crop damage, transport, crop conditioning, types of stores, environmental conditions, grading, packing and marketing arrangements. Implications of new technology and changes in production practices should be discussed.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

It is expected that delivery of this Unit will be based on a series of lectures and visits supported by information from reading and on-line material. Use should be made of technical literature, product manuals, videos and published statistics. The Unit should be taught with reference to a wide range of diverse crops, the crop chosen for the assessment for Outcome 3 should be different from the crop chosen for Outcomes 1 and 2 to provide the candidate with the opportunity to expand the breadth of their knowledge. Delivery should place emphasis on the practical aspects of the production of a specialised field crop. The Unit lends itself to the use of tutorials and workshops as a means of delivery, where the tutor can encourage candidates to share and develop their existing knowledge and skills.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

The completion of Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 may provide opportunities to develop Written Communication, Oral Communication and Using Number to SCQF level 6. Candidates may have to process numerical and graphical data when preparing their production plan in Outcome 3.

There may also be the opportunity to develop the Core Skill of Working with Others to SCQF Level 6. Suggested activities include the use of group work in the classroom and seminar presentations by candidates.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Specialised Field Crops

Open learning

This Unit is suited to delivery by distance learning. However, planning will be required by the centre to ensure that assessment for Outcomes 1 and 2 take place under supervised conditions.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Specialised Field Crops

This Unit is concerned with the specialised field crop industry.

The aim of the Unit is to develop your knowledge of specialised field crops, the organisations which support and control them and the skills involved in the production of a specialised field crop.

The Unit is primarily designed to prepare you for crop production management roles and can also assist you in preparing for a career as a trainee agricultural consultant. If you have prior experience of crop production you should be able to make use of this during your study.

During the Unit you will learn about the structure of the specialised field crop industry, how crops are propagated and production cycle of specialised field crops. You will be expected to use the knowledge and skills from the Unit to enable you to make informed comment about specialised field crop production issues in your vocational area.

In order to complete this Unit successfully, you may be required to complete one or two pieces of assessed work. Your assessment may be a report or a presentation for Outcomes 1 and 2 and a report for Outcome 3.

The Unit provides you with an opportunity to develop the Core Skill of *Numeracy* to SCQF level 6 by processing numerical and graphical data when preparing your production plan in Outcome 3. Completion of Outcome 1, 2 and 3 may also provides you with an opportunity to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* skills to SCQF level 6. Class and seminar work may provide you with the opportunity to develop the Core Skill of *Working with Others* to SCQF level 6.