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## Overview

This standard covers the maintenance of crop or plant growth both outdoors and in protected conditions

This standard is for those whose role it is to maintain the growth and development of crops or plants both outdoors and in protected conditions.

This includes maintaining crops or plants in any horticulture setting, whether amenity (green roofs, gardens, sports turf etc) or production (fruit, vegetable, trees etc).

You will carry out your work in accordance with instructions and specifications.

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

**Performance  
criteria**

**You must be able to:**

- P1 carry out an environmental assessment of the site before starting work
- P2 carry out all work in accordance with instructions and specifications
- P3 prepare, use and maintain equipment in a safe, clean and effective condition throughout
- P4 monitor the health and development of the plants in accordance with specifications
- P5 take appropriate actions to optimise growth
- P6 recognise problems with the plant or environmental conditions and take the appropriate action
- P7 maintain plant development to specifications
- P8 monitor and maintain the integrity of the site to specifications to include irrigation and drainage where appropriate
- P9 recognise weeds, pests and diseases and take the appropriate action
- P10 handle plants in a manner which prevents damage
- P11 maintain suitable levels of hygiene and biosecurity
- P12 carry out work in a manner which causes minimal damage to the surrounding area
- P13 deal with waste safely and correctly and in accordance with instructions
- P14 complete records as appropriate
- P15 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and workplace policies

**Knowledge and understanding**

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the importance of carrying out an environmental assessment of the site before starting work and the findings which must be reported
- K2 how to prepare, use and maintain equipment in a safe and effective condition
- K3 the stages of plant development
- K4 methods for maintaining and optimising plant development
- K5 the impact of the growing medium on plant health
- K6 problems which may occur with development of plants and the appropriate action to take
- K7 indications that environmental conditions require adjustment and the action to take
- K8 how to recognise weeds, pests and diseases and the action to take
- K9 methods of supplying water to plants
- K10 how to check and adjust irrigation and drainage systems to meet specifications
- K11 methods of providing nutrients to plants
- K12 the importance of following specifications when providing nutrients to plants
- K13 types of unwanted plant material and why they must be removed
- K14 when plants require protection
- K15 the importance of completing the activity in accordance with specifications
- K16 the importance of maintaining hygiene and biosecurity when maintaining plants
- K17 how to handle, transport and dispose of waste in accordance with legal and organisational requirements
- K18 how to complete appropriate records
- K19 your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies

## Glossary

Methods for maintaining plant development:

- protection from pests and diseases
- weed control measures
- weather protection
- control of temperature, humidity, ventilation, light and shade
- pruning and trimming
- supporting
- nutrient provision
- provision of water

Control measures:

- mechanical
- chemical
- cultural

Crops or plants:

- herbaceous perennials
- sedums
- arable crops
- crops for human consumption (e.g. strawberries, mushrooms, vines)
- plants for sale or propagation

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

Instructions: verbal or written.

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