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## Overview

This standard covers the monitoring and control of crop or plant growth

This standard is for those whose work role is to monitor and control the growth of crops or plants outdoors or in protected conditions. This will include establishing measures and in some cases supervising operatives in the maintenance of crop or plant growth.

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

You will require considerable knowledge of the principles of plant growth and development and plant health.

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 assess the risks associated with the site and the required activity
- P2 carry out an environmental assessment of the site before starting work
- P3 identify and plan suitable methods to maintain plant development in accordance with specifications
- P4 ensure that the working methods for maintaining plant development are established and clearly communicated
- P5 identify and ensure the availability of resources required for maintaining plant development
- 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 inspect plants to assess condition and take appropriate action
- P9 identify ways to optimise the growth and development of plants
- P10 identify any threats to plant health and take appropriate action
- P11 ensure equipment is used and maintained in a safe and effective condition
- P12 ensure plants are handled in a manner which prevents damage
- P13 ensure appropriate records are completed as required by relevant legislation and the organisation
- P14 ensure that environmental and health and safety policies and risk assessment requirements are put into practice across your area of responsibility

### Knowledge and understanding

#### You need to know and understand:

- K1 how to identify hazards and assess risks
- K2 how to interpret risk assessments
- K3 how to carry out an environmental assessment of the site
- K4 the importance of ensuring that the activity is completed in accordance with specifications
- K5 the equipment and materials required for the job and how to ensure it is used and maintained in a safe and effective condition and stored securely
- K6 methods of maintaining hygiene and biosecurity and the reasons why it is important
- K7 the legal and organisational requirements for the handling, transporting and disposal of waste
- K8 stages of plant development
- K9 the importance of inspecting plants in accordance with specifications
- K10 methods for maintaining and optimising plant health and development
- K11 signs of damage or threats to plant health and the appropriate action to take
- K12 the effective and efficient use of resources when carrying out plant development
- K13 the control methods which can be used for pest, disease and weed control
- K14 the requirements for nutrients and moisture and how these can be adjusted to promote plant health
- K15 correct methods of handling plants
- K16 problems which may occur and how these should be dealt with
- K17 the importance of maintaining effective communication with those involved in the work
- K18 appropriate records to be kept and their significance
- K19 your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and workplace 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

Plants:

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

Control methods:

- mechanical
- chemical
- cultural

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

Instructions: verbal or written.

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