
Overview

This standard is for those who prepare growing media for planting in accordance with specifications. The growing media may be soil, compost or synthetic media (e.g. rockwool).

The standard is applicable to the preparation of growing media by hand or machine.

**Performance
criteria**

You must be able to:

- P1 carry out all work in accordance with specifications
- P2 select, prepare, use and maintain equipment in a safe, clean and effective condition throughout
- P3 obtain and make ready the required quantities of materials for incorporation into the growing media in accordance with specifications
- P4 incorporate materials into the growing media in accordance with specifications
- P5 prepare the growing medium in accordance with specifications
- P6 maintain suitable levels of hygiene and biosecurity
- P7 deal with waste safely and correctly in accordance with company policies
- P8 store and label growing media in accordance with specifications
- P9 complete records as appropriate
- P10 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the importance of completing the activity in accordance with specifications
- K2 how to select, prepare, use and maintain equipment in a safe and effective condition
- K3 specifications in relation to the preparation of growing media
- K4 how the requirements of different crops and varying growing conditions affect the make up of the growing media
- K5 how environmental conditions influence the preparation of growing media
- K6 external factors affecting the timing of operations
- K7 the preparation of growing media in relation to planting requirements
- K8 different ingredients used in the preparation of growing media
- K9 the different properties of the various ingredients used to prepare growing media
- K10 procedures for obtaining materials and measuring out the ingredients of the growing media
- K11 different methods of incorporating ingredients into a growing medium
- K12 different methods of preparing the growing medium
- K13 the importance of accurate labelling
- K14 relevant storage conditions for growing media and factors affecting storage life
- K15 the importance of maintaining hygiene and biosecurity when preparing growing media
- K16 how to handle, transport and dispose of waste in accordance with legal and organisational requirements
- K17 the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
- K18 the records which need to be completed
- K19 your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies

Glossary

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

Instructions: verbal or written.

Developed by	Lantra
Version number	3.5
Date Approved	March 2012
Indicative review date	March 2017
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating organisation	Lantra
Original URN	LANCU74; LANPH8
Relevant occupations	Plant Propagator; Nursery Worker; Fruit and Vegetable Production Worker; Gardener
Suite	Horticulture
Keywords	soil; compost; rockwool
