



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Planting and Maintenance

Unit code: H1JD 11

Superclass: SE

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Summary

This Unit is designed to meet the needs of candidates following a range of programmes and is particularly suitable for the land-based sector. On completion of this Unit candidates will have a general knowledge and practical skills involved in, site preparation, planting and aftercare.

Outcomes

- 1 Prepare site prior to planting.
- 2 Plant in accordance with good horticultural practice.
- 3 Provide initial aftercare and long term maintenance to planted areas.

Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit Credit at SCQF level 5 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*).

**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.*

General information (cont)

Unit title: Planting and Maintenance

Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Planting and Maintenance

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

Outcome 1

Prepare site prior to planting.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Clear site whilst identifying services, hazards and soil conditions.
- (b) Cultivate soil.
- (c) Carry out soil improvement by addition of fertiliser and/or organic matter.
- (d) Prepare soil to a good tilth and consolidated to final levels.
- (e) Ensure work is carried out safely in accordance with all relevant legislation.

Outcome 2

Plant in accordance with good horticultural practice.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Transport and handle plants correctly
- (b) Place plants into soil correctly
- (c) Leave site in a safe and tidy condition
- (d) Ensure work is carried out safely in accordance with all relevant legislation

Outcome 3

Provide initial aftercare and long term maintenance to planted areas.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Carry out initial aftercare including weed control, irrigation, staking, pruning and dead heading.
- (b) Carry out tasks associated with long term maintenance including weed control, thinning out, pruning, pest and disease control, dead heading, checking ties and supports.
- (c) Ensure work is carried out safely in accordance with all relevant legislation.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: See Unit writer brief

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

This is a practical Unit in which candidates should have the opportunity to complete all of the tasks set out in the Performance Criteria. The types of planted areas may include trees, shrubs, herbaceous and annual bedding. Candidates must work on at least two types of planted areas and achieve all Performance Criteria for both areas.

For Outcome 1, candidates are required to produce practical evidence of their ability to prepare the ground for planting. They should be able to assess the ground conditions and identify any potential problems, hazards and presence of services prior to starting to cultivate. Cultivation must be done by hand tools with the optional use of a powered cultivator. Debris and arisings should be disposed of appropriately by composting, recycling or in the correct waste stream.

The addition of the type of soil ameliorants and fertiliser is at the discretion of the centre, but candidates should be made aware of the different types available and their benefits to plant growth.

The soil should well cultivated to a good tilth with final levels achieved and be correctly consolidated prior to planting.

The site must be left in a safe and tidy condition with all tools cleaned and returned safely to store.

Evidence for this Outcome can be collected in the form of a practical checklist.

For Outcome 2, candidates are required to produce practical evidence of their ability to plant correctly. This will include handling and transporting plants correctly to minimise damage, planting in the correct place, to the correct depth, within an appropriate sized planting hole, and firming correctly to remove air pockets and hollows around plants. Seasonality must also be followed for the type and condition of plant/root conditions etc.

The site must be left in a safe and tidy condition with all tools cleaned and returned safely to store.

Evidence for this Outcome can be collected in the form of a practical checklist.

For Outcome 3, candidates are required to produce practical evidence of their ability to

- (a) Carry out initial aftercare to newly planted areas including at least three of the following tasks, weed control, irrigation, staking, pruning and dead heading.
- (b) Carry out long term maintenance to established planted areas including at least four of the following, weed control, thinning out, pruning, pest and disease control, dead heading, checking ties and supports.

Evidence for this Outcome can be collected in the form of a practical checklist.

Candidates must work safely and adhere to all relevant Health and Safety requirements throughout all practical activities and work in accordance with good horticultural practice.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Planting and Maintenance

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

This Unit has been designed to give centres flexibility in offering candidates a range of types of planted areas to plant out and carry out initial and long term maintenance operations. The tasks highlighted in the three Outcomes can be scheduled by centres to fit in with seasonality and maintenance programmes. All relevant Health and Safety requirements and practices should be covered for all the practical activities covered in the Unit.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

The practical tasks listed for all three Outcomes should be carried out in the real outdoor growing environment. While candidates may undertake the activities required by this Unit in groups all evidence generated must relate to the individual candidate.

Candidates should be encouraged to consider any Health and Safety implications for themselves and others in the practical work they are expected to carry out.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

This is a highly practical Unit and the assessment should reflect this. A series of observation checklists completed by the assessor could be used to evidence the candidate's ability to complete the various tasks required. As with all practical activities the safety of the candidate and others must be paramount and assessors should ensure that any work carried out is done so safely in accordance with all relevant Health and Safety regulations and that appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is worn at all times.

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment is not appropriate for this Unit as it is a practical hands on Unit generating evidence in real life growing environment.

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Planting and Maintenance

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit, however there may be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Numeracy*, *Problem Solving* and *Working with Others* at SCQF Level 4.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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