



## **National Unit specification: general information**

**Unit title:** Sportsturf Grass Identification at SCQF level 4

**Unit code:** H1TR 10

**Superclass:** SF

**Publication date:** October 2012

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 02

### **Summary**

This Unit is designed to provide candidates with knowledge about the common grasses used in the maintenance of the main playing surfaces on the golf course. Candidates will identify the common grass species used and the qualities they have for sport turf use. Candidates will also develop basic skills in selecting common grasses for a range of areas in sportsturf use.

This Unit is suitable for candidates with an interest in greenkeeping and sportsturf maintenance. It is also suitable for those wishing to progress to the NC Greenkeeping at SCQF level 5.

This Unit is a mandatory Unit of the National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 4, but may also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

### **Outcomes**

- 1 Identify common grasses found and used on golf course playing surfaces.
- 2 Describe a range of grasses used for sportsturf surfaces.
- 3 Select appropriate turfgrasses for turf areas.

### **Recommended entry**

No formal qualifications required, and it is expected that candidates will have little or no knowledge of greenkeeping, but they should have an interest in golf or greenkeeping.

## General information (cont)

**Unit title:** Sportsturf Grass Identification at SCQF level 4

### Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 4: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4\*)

*\*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.*

### Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

Complete Core Skill            None

Core Skill component        Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

## **National Unit specification: statement of standards**

### **Unit title:** Sportsturf Grass Identification at SCQF level 4

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**

Identify common grasses found and used on golf course playing surfaces.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify grasses suitable for use on golf greens using common names.
- (b) Identify grasses suitable for use on golf tees using common names.
- (c) Identify grasses suitable for use on golf fairways using common names.

#### **Outcome 2**

Describe a range of grasses used for sportsturf surfaces.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Describe the qualities of grasses required for golf greens.
- (b) Describe the qualities of grasses required for golf tees.
- (c) Describe the qualities of grasses required for golf fairways.

#### **Outcome 3**

Select appropriate turfgrasses for turf areas.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Select grass mixtures for given situations.
- (b) Give reasons for choice of turfgrasses for given situations.

## National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Sportsturf Grass Identification at SCQF level 4

### Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

#### Candidates will require access to a golf course

The evidence for this Unit will be open-book and supervised and will be, oral, recorded or written questions, identification exercises and practical tasks utilising observation checklist.

#### Outcome 1 — Written and/or oral recorded evidence which includes:

The correct identification of common grasses used on sportsturf surfaces, using common names to include: fine grasses, weed grasses, perennial grasses.

Two suitable grasses for use on golf greens.

Two suitable grasses for golf tees.

One suitable grass for golf fairways.

#### Outcome 2 — Written, oral and/or photographic evidence which includes:

An accurate description of one of the qualities required of each playing surface, in the following situations:

- ◆ links golf course: greens, tees and fairways
- ◆ parkland golf course: greens, tees and fairways

A minimum of **five** qualities from the following list must be included in the candidate's response:

- ◆ durability
- ◆ drought resistance
- ◆ shade tolerance
- ◆ recovery rate
- ◆ establishment rate
- ◆ colour
- ◆ mowing tolerance to specified height

#### Outcome 3 — Written, oral, recorded, product and/or performance evidence.

- ◆ The candidate will be given five areas on the golf course. Evidence must include the selection of suitable grass mixtures for each of the five areas, including greens, tees, aprons, fairways, rough.
- ◆ An explanation of reasons for selection of the grasses which includes a minimum of two qualities identified in Outcome 2.

## National Unit specification: support notes

### Unit title: Sportsturf Grass Identification at SCQF level 4

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 is a mandatory Unit of the National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 4, but may also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit is aligned to the following Lantra, Sector Skills Council's National Occupational Standard (NOS) Units:

- Unit L3 Maintain general amenity turf
- Unit L5 Maintain the health of sportsturf
- Unit L19 Create grassed and planted areas
- Unit L20 Plan the maintenance of sports surfaces

This Unit is designed to provide candidates with knowledge about the common grasses used in the maintenance of the main playing surfaces on the golf course. They will develop an understanding of the different grasses used in Greenkeeping for golf course maintenance in the UK, and also developing awareness of grasses used in a range of natural sportsturf surfaces.

Grass plants to be identified in Outcome 1 will include:

- ◆ fine grasses
- ◆ perennial grasses
- ◆ weed grasses

For Outcome 3 in a range of given situations the candidate will make selections for the following:

- ◆ a golf green
- ◆ a golf tee
- ◆ a golf fairway
- ◆ landscaped areas on the golf course
- ◆ rough areas on the golf course

In the Unit candidates will have the opportunity to develop aspects of the following Essential skills:

Employability: by developing work ethic, time keeping, self-management and team working skills

Citizenship: by contributing effectively to the team's role in producing and developing high quality standards of workmanship for the game of golf.

## **National Unit specification: support notes (cont)**

**Unit title:** Sportsturf Grass Identification at SCQF level 4

Substainability: by developing and understanding the importance of resources selected for use on golf courses, in order to sustain the long term benefits to the environment.

### **Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit**

#### **Candidates will require access to a golf course**

It is important that the theory/underpinning knowledge is delivered by the tutor in as many interactive ways as possible, for example, Q and A discussions, visits, internet research, quizzes and where possible candidate participation in a game of golf.

It is envisaged that the candidates should observe the common grass plants in live specimens wherever possible. Similarly the grass plants for identification should be live specimens where possible. It is acceptable to use graphical/photographic material if no fresh material is available.

In all identification exercises an emphasis should be placed on using common names from the outset.

The quality requirements covered in Outcome 2 should, wherever possible, be related to practical issues which may be encountered in the workplace, keeping any in-depth theory to a minimum. At this level a description of the basic broad concepts of the turfgrass qualities will be acceptable.

It is important in Outcome 3 to emphasise the role played by individual grass species within the mixture, and how they contribute to a mixture's suitability for a given use. Trade catalogues, internet resources and visits to greenkeeping related trade fairs would contribute to a candidate's understanding of this.

It is suggested that this Unit is timetabled at a time of year appropriate to the tasks being undertaken in a realistic setting.

### **Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit**

The practical assessment, supported by Assessor Observation Checklist, undertaken in Outcome 3 can be used for candidates to apply the knowledge necessary for Outcomes 1 and 2.

Outcomes 1 and 3 are theoretical but the assessments should not require long responses and where possible, quizzes, drag and drop or matching exercises should be used rather than formal questioning.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Sportsturf Grass Identification at SCQF level 4

### Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

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)*.

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In the Unit, candidates will have the opportunity to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

- ◆ Elements of *Communication* and *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* will be developed in the research and interpretation of sources relating to grass seed mixtures
- ◆ *Numeracy* could be enhanced in the measuring and calculating of areas; sowing rates; quantities of seed required or the quantities of turf required. Graphical skills could be used in the form of drawings and sketches to aid the candidates understanding of the grass plants, and in the identifying of the grasses
- ◆ Elements of *Problem Solving* (Critical Thinking) may be developed when deciding which grass mixtures to select in Outcome 3

This Unit has the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4 embedded.	08/10/2012

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