



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Bedding Plant Production (SCQF level 4)

Unit code: H1YF 10

Superclass: SE

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Version: 02

Summary

This Unit is designed to introduce the candidates to half-hardy bedding plant production methods. Candidates will learn about the resources required for producing a crop of half-hardy bedding plants to industry standards. They will also develop skills in growing and maintaining a crop of bedding plants. This Unit is aimed at candidates with little or no experience of bedding plant production. It is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Horticulture at SCQF level 4 but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

Outcomes

- 1 Select and prepare the resources required for bedding plant production.
- 2 Produce a crop of half-hardy bedding plants.

Recommended entry

An interest in horticulture or plants is desirable. The candidate's prior completion of the Unit *Plant Production* (include the Code when available) would be of value.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 4 (6 SCQF points at 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.*

General information (cont)

Unit title: Bedding Plant Production (SCQF Level 4)

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 3

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: Bedding Plant Production (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

Select and prepare the resources required for bedding plant production.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify the resources required for bedding plant production.
- (b) Select resources required for propagation.
- (c) Prepare resources for use.

Outcome 2

Produce a crop of half-hardy bedding plants.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Assist in selecting the plant production method for a selected crop.
- (b) Assist with establishing growth.
- (c) Describe methods of maintaining the health of plants.
- (d) Maintain growth and health of the bedding plants.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

Outcome 1

Closed-book supervised written and/or oral evidence is required which includes:

- ◆ identification of the resources required for successful bedding plant production to include as a minimum: stock plants, seeds, trays, labels, riddle and compost
- ◆ selection of the correct resources required for the propagation, to include as a minimum: trays (modular, where appropriate), labels, compost, cleaning propagators and glass house
- ◆ effective preparation of the resources identified for use

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Bedding Plant Production (SCQF Level 4)

Outcome 2

Open-book supervised written/oral and performance evidence is required which includes:

- ◆ selection of a plant production method appropriate to a selected crop
This could be seed sowing, vegetative propagation or growing from plug plants, liners or transplants
- ◆ application of the selected plant production method for the selected crop
- ◆ picking out seedlings or potting up rooted cuttings, according to the method used, to produce at least 12 plants
- ◆ an accurate description of how plant growth is encouraged and maintained to include pest and disease control, watering and nutrition
- ◆ maintenance of plant growth to include:
 - the removal of any pests or disease, application of the correct amount of water at intervals suitable for the crop
 - the addition of the correct amount and type of nutrition, at intervals suited to the crop

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Bedding Plant Production (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 aligned to the following LANTRA National Occupational Standards (NOS).

Unit CU73 Propagate plants from seed
Element CU73.1 Prepare materials and sow seed
Element CU73.2 Provide aftercare for seedlings

Unit CU72 Propagate plants by vegetative methods
Element CU72.1 Collect propagation material
Element CU72.2 Prepare propagation material
Element CU72.3 Establish propagation material in a growing environment

Unit L17 Produce plants for decorative horticultural displays
Element L17.1 Gather and propagate vegetative material
Element L17.2 Propagate plants by seed

This Unit provides an introduction to half-hardy bedding plant production and makes candidates aware of the resources and methods used. Candidates will be taught how to produce half-hardy bedding plants according to current industry best practice. They will gain experience in selecting appropriate resources and preparing them for use. A crop of half-hardy bedding plants will be produced ready for sale or use.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

- Outcome 1 A site visit to a commercial nursery would be beneficial early in the training. In this Outcome the candidate will identify the resources required for bedding plant production including seeds/stock plants, trays, labels, compost, propagator and glasshouse space. The resources will then be prepared for use. This would include writing labels, preparing compost, cleaning propagators and glass houses.
- Outcome 2 In this Outcome the candidate will produce a crop of half-hardy bedding plants from seed or cuttings. The method to be used should be selected according to season, crop requirements and the candidate group. The candidates should prepare the trays properly then sow the seeds with attention to spacing then cover them to the correct depth. Trays should then be labelled and placed in trays to soak up water. At the correct stage of first true leaf the seedlings should be pricked out. The crop health should be monitored by the candidates until use or sale. If the crop is produced from cuttings then potting up would replace pricking out.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Bedding Plant Production (SCQF Level 4)

By adopting the above learning and teaching approaches and through the Outcomes and corresponding Evidence Requirements, the Unit should provide candidates with an opportunity to develop the following essential skills for life, learning and work:

- ◆ Enterprise — through producing plants for sale.
- ◆ Employability — through developing knowledge and skills required for work in commercial bedding plant production.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

- Outcome 1 A question paper or a portfolio could be used to provide evidence of the candidate's ability to identify resources required for half-hardy bedding plant production. Checklists can be used when the candidates are preparing the resources for use.
- Outcome 2 Practical task checklists are suitable for this outcome and one could be used for checking the initiation of the crop. A second could be used for the pricking out or potting up and a third for maintaining and monitoring the crop health. The theory part of this outcome could be assessed using oral or written questioning.

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

This unit will develop the core skills of *Numeracy* (calculating the amount of materials required) *Working with Others* (group work in practical activities) and *Critical Thinking* (plant health and maintenance decisions).

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 3.

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
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 3 embedded.	08/10/2012

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