

ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

Unit 20555

Prepare and use soil-less growing media

Level 3, Credit 5, Version 2

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Unit standard 20555

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Level of performance required for this unit standard

This is a level 3 unit standard. At this level trainees are expected to demonstrate the following abilities when completing assessment tasks:

- To work under general supervision, with some independence; with significant responsibility for the standard of the outcome achieved.
- To apply technical skills and knowledge to complete the task to the specified standard, in a familiar context.
- To interpret available information, and use discretion and judgement.

Workplace assessment:

For guidelines on Workplace Assessment, please refer to the NZHITO Workplace Assessors Manual, and for further information, please contact: NZHITO, PO Box 8638, Christchurch, Ph 03 9644 735, Fax 03 9644 737 www.hortito.org.nz

Special notes:

This unit standard replaces unit standard 813.

- 1 *Workplace practices* refers to the way a particular task is carried out on a horticultural property to achieve the desired outcome.
- 2 Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes but is not limited to the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, the Resource Management Act 1991, and their subsequent amendments.
- 3 Work may involve exposure to chemical, dangerous, or hazardous substances. Safety procedures are observed in accordance with NZS 8409:2004 *Management of Agrichemicals*, available from Standards New Zealand <http://standards.co.nz>, or the NZ Agrichemical Education Trust <http://www.growsafe.co.nz>.

Unit 20555: Prepare and use soil-less growing media (Apprentice copy)

ELEMENT	Competent	Range of evidence an assessor should consider
Element 1 Identify soil-less growing media constituents	Yes/No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify common constituents of soil-less media. May include processed bark, pumice, sand, peat and perlite. Explain their effects on the media physical properties of media • Identify common fertilisers and additives of soil-less media and explain their purpose. They may include controlled release fertilisers, single element fertilisers, compound fertilisers, trace element mixes, dolomite, lime, wetting agents, water crystals, pest and disease control agents. • Explain properties of soil-less fertiliser, including physical, chemical and biological. • Identify the media requirements for five lines of plants, and media are selected to meet these requirements.
Element 2 Mix soil-less media	Yes/No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil-less media mixing to include two of – seed or cutting propagation medium, short term (2-3 months use) growing medium, long term (6-9 months use) growing medium. • Select ingredients and measure quantities in accordance with the media use and recipe. • Mixing achieves even distribution of ingredients and is carried out according to workplace practices. Carry out one of: hand mixing, front-end loader, mechanical media mixer. • Store or move soil-less media to area of use. Stored media is clearly identified. • Avoid medium contamination during preparation, mixing, storage, or movement to area of use.
Element 3 Fill containers with media	Yes/No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select correct medium for use in two of: seed or cutting propagation medium, short-term (2-3 months use) growing medium, long-term (6-9 months use) growing medium. • Fill and firm or level plant containers according to practices used on the property: Three of root trainers, seedling trays, cell or plug trays, paper pots, tubes.
Element 4 Dispose of unwanted media	Yes/No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispose of unwanted or used media according to practices used on the property and local authority environmental requirements.

_____ (Name of Apprentice)

is **Competent** / **Not yet competent** in Unit Standard 20555 (version 2)

Signed (Assessor): _____

WPA Registration Number: _____ Date: _____

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Please send this page to your NZHITO Regional Manager, who will forward it to National Office to register the credits on your NZQA Record of Learning.

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