

ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

Unit 20570

Demonstrate knowledge of nursery growing media

Level 2, Credit 5, version 2

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Unit standard 20570

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Level of performance required for this unit standard

This is a level 2 unit standard. At this level trainees are expected to demonstrate the following abilities when completing assessment tasks:

- To work under general supervision, as directed; with some responsibility for the standard of the outcome achieved.
- To complete tasks that are established and familiar, with a moderate range of skill and knowledge.
- To apply basic operational knowledge, use readily available information and known solutions to solve familiar problems.

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, Website: www.hortito.org.nz

Unit 20570: Demonstrate knowledge of nursery growing media (Apprentice copy)

ELEMENT	Competent	Range of evidence an assessor should consider
Element 1 Explain the properties of growing media.	Yes/No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the two main types of nursery growing media. Answer to include soil-less container media and soil in the field. • Recognise the properties of growing media. Properties include aeration, drainage, water retention, nutrient supply, pH level, anchorage and support, health status. • Give a description of the uses of growing media. Uses include plant propagation, container-grown plants, field-grown plants.
Element 2 Explain the characteristics of soil-less growing media.	Yes/No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give a description of common soil-less media ingredients. Answer may include bark, pumice, sand, peat. • Explain the properties of soil-less media in general terms. Answer may include physical, chemical and biological properties. • Describe the materials added to soil-less media to improve its physical, chemical and biological properties. Materials may include fertilisers, wetting agents, water crystals, pest and/or disease controls. • Describe the factors that limit soil-less media. These may include rewetting difficulties, breakdown of organic ingredients, poor physical properties, cost of ingredients. • List three examples of soil-less growing media and give two examples of plants suited to growing in each medium.
Element 3 Explain the characteristics of soil as a growing media.	Yes/No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify soils suitable for field grown nursery crops. • Explain soil physical, chemical, and biological properties. • Describe materials added to soil to improve physical, chemical, and biological properties. May include fertilisers, lime, organic matter, pest and/or disease controls. • Describe the preparation of soil for a nursery crop. Answer may include cultivation, liming, fertilisers, irrigation, drainage, bed forming. • Describe the factors that limit soil use. Answer may include soil too wet or too dry, soil depth, soil temperature, poor soil structure, soil contamination, land purchase price. • List examples of soil types suitable for field grown nursery crops, and include examples of the types of plants suitable for growing in them. Include three soil types, two plant examples for each soil.

_____ (Name of Apprentice)

is **Competent / Not yet competent** in Unit Standard 20570 (version 2)

Signed (Assessor): _____

WPA Registration Number: _____ Date: _____

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ELEMENT	Competent	Range of evidence an assessor should consider
Element 1 Explain the properties of growing media.	Yes/No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the two main types of nursery growing media. Answer to include soil-less container media and soil in the field. • Recognise the properties of growing media. Properties include aeration, drainage, water retention, nutrient supply, pH level, anchorage and support, health status. • Give a description of the uses of growing media. Uses include plant propagation, container-grown plants, field-grown plants.
Element 2 Explain the characteristics of soil-less growing media.	Yes/No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give a description of common soil-less media ingredients. Answer may include bark, pumice, sand, peat. • Explain the properties of soil-less media in general terms. Answer may include physical, chemical and biological properties. • Describe the materials added to soil-less media to improve its physical, chemical and biological properties. Materials may include fertilisers, wetting agents, water crystals, pest and/or disease controls. • Describe the factors that limit soil-less media. These may include rewetting difficulties, breakdown of organic ingredients, poor physical properties, cost of ingredients. • List three examples of soil-less growing media and give two examples of plants suited to growing in each medium.
Element 3 Explain the characteristics of soil as a growing media.	Yes/No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify soils suitable for field grown nursery crops. • Explain soil physical, chemical, and biological properties. • Describe materials added to soil to improve physical, chemical, and biological properties. May include fertilisers, lime, organic matter, pest and/or disease controls. • Describe the preparation of soil for a nursery crop. Answer may include cultivation, liming, fertilisers, irrigation, drainage, bed forming. • Describe the factors that limit soil use. Answer may include soil too wet or too dry, soil depth, soil temperature, poor soil structure, soil contamination, land purchase price. • List examples of soil types suitable for field grown nursery crops, and include examples of the types of plants suitable for growing in them. Include three soil types, two plant examples for each soil.

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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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