

Co-ordinate the provision of nutrients to crops or plants

Overview

This standard is for those who co-ordinate the provision of nutrients to crops or plants, outdoors or in protected conditions, including any horticultural setting, whether amenity (green roofs, gardens, sports turf, etc.) or production (fruit, vegetables, trees, etc.).

This standard covers the co-ordination of your own workload; in some instances it may involve co-ordinating the work of teams.

You will require considerable knowledge of the principles of plant growth and development as well as plant health.

If you are working with chemicals or machinery you should be trained and where required, hold certification in accordance with relevant legislation.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the provision of nutrients to crops or plants
2. check that the working methods for providing nutrients to crops or plants are established and clearly communicated
3. identify and co-ordinate the availability of equipment and resources required for the provision of nutrients to crops or plants
4. confirm that suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) is worn
5. check that the tools and equipment for the provision of nutrients to crops or plants are used and maintained safely and correctly
6. co-ordinate the processing of recycling or disposal of waste in accordance with relevant legal and organisational requirements
7. confirm that hygiene and biosecurity are maintained in accordance with organisational practices
8. correctly monitor the growth and development of the crops or plants in accordance with specifications
9. assess crop or plant condition and identify the nutrients required in accordance with specifications
10. implement the application of nutrients to crops or plants in accordance with specifications
11. recognise problems with the provision of nutrients to crops or plants and take action where required
12. confirm records are completed as required by relevant legislation and organisational requirements
13. confirm that work is carried out in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety policies and risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and organisational policies

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards, assess risks and interpret risk assessments
2. the importance of confirming that the provision of nutrients is completed in accordance with specifications
3. the types of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the activity
4. the equipment and resources required for the job and how to confirm that they are used and maintained safely and correctly
5. the safe and correct use of resources when providing nutrients to crops or plants
6. methods of maintaining hygiene and biosecurity while providing nutrients to crops or plants and the reasons why it is important
7. the relevant legal and organisational requirements for the handling, transporting and disposal of waste
8. methods of providing nutrients to crops or plants
9. the ways of checking that the correct quantity of nutrients is available to the crops or plants
10. the stages of crop or plant development
11. why fertilisers are important and the role of the main, major and trace elements e.g. nitrogen and iron
12. different forms of fertilisers available and the appropriate use of each
13. fertiliser requirements for different groups of crops or plants, e.g. leafy vegetables and fruiting plants
14. problems that may arise when providing nutrients to crops or plants and what action to take
15. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in, or affected by the provision of crops or plants
16. the importance of maintaining records for the provision of nutrients to crops or plants relevant to legal and organisational requirements
17. the importance of following environmental and ecological best practice to help minimise the impact of your work on the environment
18. your responsibilities under relevant health and safety legislation, codes of practice and organisational policies

Scope/range

- A. when providing nutrients to crops or plants maintain equipment in the following ways:
 - 1. preparation
 - 2. cleaning
 - 3. storage

- B. take the following appropriate action when problems occur with the provision of nutrients to crops or plants:
 - 1. remedy the problem
 - 2. inform the appropriate person

- C. dispose of the following types of waste:
 - 1. organic
 - 2. inorganic

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Glossary

Instructions: verbal or written.

Specifications: drawings, schedules, method statements, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), manufacturers' guidelines, customer requirements, organisational policies.

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