

## Overview

This standard is for those who establish crops or plants in protected conditions or outdoors. The types of crops or plants and planting methods will depend on the type of site or project within which you work. Planting may be into a wide variety of growing media which could include soil, hydroponics, matting, compost or other growing media as appropriate. This includes planting crops or plants in any horticultural setting, whether amenity (green roofs, gardens, sports turf, etc.) or production (fruit, vegetables, trees, etc.).

You will set out crops or plants in the appropriate growing media according to requirements (this could be production or project requirements), at an acceptable speed (could be commercial) while maintaining quality. Following planting, moisture, support and protection may be required to allow the crops or plants to establish themselves within the growing media.

The identification of plant material to meet specification will include the need to identify plants by the common and botanical names. As well as knowledge of common and botanical names this standard will also cover grouping of different plants.

If you are required to use chemicals (e.g. herbicides, fungicides or insecticides), these are subject to relevant legislative requirements, and you will need to be in possession of the relevant qualifications or be under the direct supervision of someone who possesses the relevant qualification.

## Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the establishment of crops or plants
2. prepare the site to meet specifications
3. wear suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. use and maintain equipment safely and correctly
5. select crop or plant material appropriate to the specifications
6. check the health of crop or plant material before planting and reject unacceptable specimens
7. confirm that the growing media is in a suitable condition for planting
8. position the crop or plant material within the growing media in accordance with the specifications
9. maximise the health, vigour and physical condition of crop or plant material through correct handling and planting methods
10. provide protection and support appropriate to the crops or plants
11. provide crops or plants with appropriate aftercare where required
12. check the integrity of the site is maintained while establishing crops or plants
13. tidy the site when your work is finished, and dispose of/recycle waste and excess materials safely in accordance with relevant legal requirements and to minimise environmental risk
14. maintain relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and organisational policy

## Establish crops or plants

## Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

1. how to identify hazards within the site and assess risks
2. how to interpret specifications and plans for the establishment of crops or plants
3. the types of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the activity
4. how to prepare, use and maintain tools, equipment and materials relevant to the specifications
5. principles of marking and setting out the site in order to establish crops or plants
6. how to identify crop or plant material to meet specifications
7. basic plant biology
8. methods of assessing the health and condition of crop or plant material and recognise any indications that the crop or plant material is unsuitable for planting
9. the principles of selecting and combining plant types for different applications
10. the common and botanical names of crops or plants
11. aspects of different types of soil and how to identify their suitability for planting
12. how to identify types of growing media and their relationship to plant growth and development
13. methods of preparing growing media for planting
14. the correct spacing, depth, orientation and firmness of crops or plants which are grown
15. the factors affecting the timing and method of planting
16. the causes of damage to crops or plants and how to prevent them
17. methods of support and protection for crops or plants and how to apply them
18. the initial maintenance requirements to ensure establishment of crops or plants
19. the importance of following environmental and ecological best practice to help minimise the impact of your work on the environment
20. your responsibilities under relevant health and safety legislation and codes of practice

**Scope/range**

- A. set and mark out the following sites for the establishment of crops or plants:
1. areas for soft landscape construction
  2. areas for planting
  3. areas for restoration
- B. establish the following crops/plants:
1. trees
  2. shrubs
  3. container grown
  4. root grown
  5. turf
  6. seeds
- C. identify crops/plants using their common and botanical names
- D. position crops/plants according to the correct:
1. spacing
  2. depth
  3. orientation
  4. firmness
- E. assess the need to apply protection to the crops/plants from the following:
1. pests
  2. diseases
  3. weeds
  4. environmental conditions
- F. provide the following types of aftercare to crops/plants:
1. provision of water
  2. protection

3. support
4. initial pruning or cutting

## Glossary

**Crops:** include brassicas, tubers, root vegetables, herbs.

**Instructions:** verbal or written.

**Plants** include grass, woody plants, herbaceous, bedding plants and sedums.

**Specifications:** include drawings, schedules, method statements, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and manufacturers' guidelines, organisational policies.

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