

## Overview

This standard covers the preparation and cultivation of sites ready for planting crops.

You will need to be able to use cultivation equipment in order to achieve the required ground conditions for planting to be carried out and you will require an understanding of soil types and condition, climate, weather and ground conditions.

When working with machinery or equipment you should be trained and hold current certification where required.

When carrying out your work you must consider the impact it will have on the environment.

The standard is suitable for those with responsibility for preparing and cultivating sites ready for planting crops.

## Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the required activity
2. wear suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. select, prepare, use and maintain the required equipment and machinery, safely and correctly
4. check that planting equipment is fit for use and confirm that it is set up to provide the **required ground conditions**
5. **prepare the site** to meet the requirements of the crop to be planted and other **relevant factors**
6. cultivate the site to meet **instructions and specifications** and other **relevant factors**
7. maintain hygiene and bio-security, in accordance with business practices
8. maintain the security of equipment and machinery on site
9. clean down equipment and machinery after use and leave it secure and in the correct condition for future use
10. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in, or affected by, your work
11. follow industry and business guidance to minimise environmental damage
12. process waste safely and correctly, in accordance with relevant legal requirements and business practices
13. carry out your work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies
14. complete records as required by relevant legislation and the business

## Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. the type of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the activity
3. the importance of carrying out an environmental assessment of the site before starting work as well as the findings that may affect the preparation and cultivation of the site ready for planting crops
4. the requirements, advantages and disadvantages of different crop production systems
5. the principles of **sustainable agriculture** and Integrated Crop Management (ICM)
6. the types of equipment and machinery required for preparing and cultivating sites ready for planting crops, and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and correctly
7. how to set up the equipment and machinery to carry out the required task, including the use of technology
8. the methods used to **prepare the site**, in accordance with **instructions and specifications** and production requirements
9. the methods used to cultivate the site, in accordance with **instructions and specifications** and production requirements
10. the effect that soil type, climate, weather and ground conditions, previous treatments, existing structures and systems will have on the cultivation methods used
11. the requirements that sites may have for drainage and the relationship of this to soil type and condition, climate and geographical location
12. the relationship between the crop and soil type and condition, climate and geographical location
13. the sort of problems that may arise during the preparation and cultivation and the appropriate actions to take
14. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security during the preparation and cultivation of sites ready for planting crops, and the methods for achieving this
15. why it is important to maintain the safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
16. how to clean down equipment and machinery
17. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in, or affected by, your work and how this should be done

18. the potential impact that your activities could have on the environment and the ways in which this can be minimised
19. how to handle, transport, store and dispose of waste in accordance with relevant legal requirements and business practices
20. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies
21. the records that need to be kept and the importance of completing them

## Glossary

### Instructions and specifications:

- drawings/plans
- schedules
- method statements
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- manufacturer's guidelines
- customer requirements
- crop requirements
- verbal instructions

### Prepare the site:

- drainage
- adjustment of nutrients
- clearance

### Relevant factors:

- soil type and condition
- topography
- climate
- weather and ground conditions
- existing structures and systems (e.g. fences, hedges, drainage)
- previous use of the site
- previous treatments
- access

### Required ground conditions:

- depth
- area covered
- tilth

**Sustainable agriculture:** Meeting the requirements for food production while maintaining profitability and preserving the environment.

Prepare and cultivate sites ready for planting crops

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**Relevant Occupations** Farmer; Tractor Driver

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**Suite** Agricultural Crop Production

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