

Overview

This standard covers the preparation of planting equipment and the planting of crops.

You will be able to check that the site is in a suitable condition for planting and that the correct quality and quantity of planting material is available. You will also be able to set up and operate machinery and equipment to carry out planting to meet the needs of the crop and planting specification.

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 planting equipment and carrying out the planting of crops.

Prepare planting equipment and plant 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 the planting equipment is fit for use and confirm that it is set up to give the **required outputs**
5. check that the soil has been prepared and is in a suitable condition for planting the crop, and take action if it is not
6. transport **planting material** in a way that avoids damage and maintains quality
7. **position planting material** in the soil consistently across the site in accordance with **instructions and specifications**
8. maintain hygiene and bio-security, in accordance with business practices
9. maintain the safety and security of the equipment and machinery on site
10. clean down equipment and machinery after use and leave it secure and in the correct condition for future use
11. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in, or affected by, your work
12. follow industry and business guidance to minimise environmental damage
13. process waste safely and correctly, in accordance with relevant legal requirements and business practices
14. carry out your work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies
15. 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, and the findings that may affect the planting of 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 planting crops and how to prepare, use and maintain these safely and correctly
7. the **required outputs** of the planting equipment, taking into account the **relevant factors**
8. how to set up the equipment and machinery to give the required outputs, including the use of technology
9. the types of soil and their relationship to crop planting and the establishment of crops
10. the requirements and purpose of the planting specifications
11. how to check that the soil has been prepared and is in a suitable condition for planting crops
12. the methods used to prepare **planting material** and how to confirm that it is suitable for planting
13. the importance of **timing** when planting crops and how the type of crop affects the timing
14. the inter-relationship between density, depth, orientation, plant spacing and row widths when planting, what is best for different crops and different sites and why this is the case
15. the factors that must be taken into consideration during the planting of crops, such as seed treatments, the addition of slug pellets or fertiliser
16. the sort of problems that may arise during planting and the actions to take
17. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security when planting crops and the methods for achieving this
18. why it is important to maintain the safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site

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19. how to clean down equipment and machinery
20. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in, or affected by, your work and how this should be done
21. the potential impact that your activities could have on the environment and the ways in which this can be minimised
22. how to handle, transport, store and dispose of waste in accordance with legal requirements and business practices
23. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies
24. 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

Planting material:

- seeds
- plants
- tubers, etc
- fertilisers
- treatments

Position planting material:

- density
- depth
- orientation
- plant spacing
- row widths

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 outputs:

- plants/ha
- kg/ha

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

Timing:

- seasonality
- soil conditions
- weather conditions
- environmental conditions

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