**Year 11**

**Prepare and sow outdoor seedbeds manually**

Unit Standard 1

Prepare and sow outdoor seed beds

Level 1

Credits 5

For the assessment of this Unit Standard you are required to carry out and complete ALL of the following tasks each time you prepare a new piece of garden.

**Element 1**

Cultivate soil using hand tools.

**Performance criteria**

1.1 The tools selected are suitable for the task and are used safely.

1.2 Plain (single spit) digging is used in accordance with the soil characteristics.

1.3 Cultivation depth and tilth are consistent over the cultivated area.

1.4 Soil is aerated suitably for the soil characteristics and seed to be used.

1.5 Surface is even over the cultivated area.

1.6 Tools are cleaned and stored after use, in accordance with workplace procedures.

1.7 Added material such as organic matter, fertilisers, manures, and such soil conditioners as lime is incorporated uniformly throughout the total area.

**Element 2**

Recognise and apply fertilisers and lime.

**Performance criteria**

2.1 Fertiliser, manure, and lime are identified by sight. Fertilisers include sulphate of ammonia, sulphate of potash, superphosphate, a compound fertiliser, organic fertiliser, blood and bone, pelletised manure.

2.2 Fertiliser or lime is measured out accurately, in accordance with workplace procedures.

2.3 Fertiliser or lime is spread evenly over the specified area at the instructed rate of application.

2.4 Equipment and materials are stored after use, in accordance with workplace procedures.

**Element 3**

Prepare a seedbed by hand for sowing.

**Performance criteria**

3.1 The seedbed is cleared of weeds and surface trash, which are disposed of in accordance with workplace procedures.

3.2 Soil tilth is even and suited to intended seed and crop.

3.3 Soil aeration and moisture levels are appropriate for seed germination.

3.4 The seedbed is contoured in accordance with workplace procedures.

**Element 4**

Sow seed by hand in outdoor seedbeds using broadcast or drilling methods.

**Performance criteria**

4.1 Broadcast seed is sown at an even rate and incorporated to an even depth, in accordance with workplace procedures.

4.2 Drilled seed is sown at a correct depth in straight drills spaced at intervals, in accordance with workplace procedures.

4.3 Sowings are labelled accurately and clearly.

* 1. The site is left clean and tidy with all equipment and unused seed stored, in accordance with workplace procedures.

**Element 5**

Maintain seedbed to seedling stage of growth.

**Performance criteria**

5.1 Seedbed is regularly maintained to ensure optimum seedling growth. Maintenance includes weeding, watering, control of pests and diseases.

5.2 Seed germination and seedling growth is checked regularly.

5.3 Records are kept of seedbed maintenance from seed germination to seedling stage of growth.