
Overview

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

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

If you are working with chemicals or machinery you need to be appropriately trained in line with current legislation, and hold a relevant award where appropriate

You must carry out your work in a way which will consider any impact on the natural environment and enhance its nature and conservation

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

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 assess the risks associated with the site and the required activity
- P2 select, prepare, use and maintain equipment and machinery in a safe, clean and effective condition throughout
- P3 check equipment and machinery is fit for use and ensure it is properly set up prior to undertaking activity
- P4 prepare the site to meet the requirements of the crop to be planted and other relevant factors
- P5 use cultivation equipment in the correct order to achieve the required ground conditions
- P6 cultivate the site to meet the requirements of the crop and other relevant factors
- P7 respond effectively to the different circumstances which may arise when preparing and cultivating sites
- P8 maintain suitable levels of hygiene and bio-security
- P9 maintain the security of equipment and machinery on site
- P10 follow organisational and industry environmental good practice to minimise environmental damage
- P11 deal with waste safely and correctly in accordance with legislation
- P12 monitor and maintain the site prior to the planting of crops, in accordance with production requirements
- P13 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies
- P14 keep accurate and up-to-date records as required by relevant legislation and the organisation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 how to identify hazards and assess risks
- K2 how to interpret risk assessments
- K3 the importance of carrying out an environmental assessment of the site before starting work and the findings which may affect site preparation and cultivation
- K4 the requirements, advantages and disadvantages of different crop production systems
- K5 the principles of sustainable crop production
- K6 types of equipment and machinery required for preparing and cultivating sites and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and effectively, including the use of new technology
- K7 how to set up the equipment and machinery to carry out required task
- K8 methods for preparing the site according to production requirements
- K9 methods for cultivating the site according to production requirements
- K10 the effect which soil type, climate, weather and ground conditions, previous treatments, existing structures and systems will have on the cultivation methods used
- K11 the requirements which sites may have for drainage and the relationship of this to soil type and condition, climate and geographical location
- K12 the relationship between the crop and soil type and condition, climate and geographical location
- K13 problems which may arise during preparation and cultivation and the actions to take
- K14 the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security during preparation and cultivation of sites and the methods for achieving this
- K15 why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
- K16 the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
- K17 the legal and organisational requirements for the handling, transport, storage and disposal of waste
- K18 the reasons for monitoring the site prior to planting
- K19 your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies
- K20 the records which need to be maintained

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Glossary

Specifications: drawings, schedules, method statements, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), manufacturers guidelines, customer requirements, crop requirements

Prepare the site:

- drainage
- adjustment of nutrient
- 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

Ground conditions:

- depth
- area covered
- tilth

Circumstances:

- different soil conditions
- different weather conditions
- different sites

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

Records: manual or computerised

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