

Title	Perform manual grave digging		
Level	3	Credits	10

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: prepare for and conduct manual grave excavation and shoring; implement strategies to minimise risk of grave collapse; and clean up and make safe an open grave site.
----------------	---

Classification	Horticulture > Amenity Horticulture
-----------------------	-------------------------------------

Available grade	Achieved
------------------------	----------

Guidance Information

- Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes but is not limited to:
 - Burial and Cremation Act 1964;
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015; and subsequent amendments.
- Definitions
 A *grave site* is a place of burial, above and below ground, immediately in front of, and including a headstone where a casket or body is buried. The grave site may or may not be formally identified or lined.
Workplace procedures refer to instructions to staff on policy and procedures which are communicated in verbal or written form. These requirements may include but are not limited to – manufacturers' instructions, company safety requirements, and industry codes of practice and standards. Workplace procedures must include legislative requirements.
- Tools and equipment may include but are not limited to – spreaders; boards; hydraulic braces; stabilisers; spade; shovel; pick; crowbar; auger; timber tong; sledgehammer; timber mallet; explosive power tool; power saw; hand saw; timber of correct grade, size and type; certified ladder; grave sleeves; helmet; tape measure; level and plumb bob.
- All evidence presented in this unit standard must be in accordance with workplace procedures.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Prepare for and conduct manual grave excavation and shoring.

Performance criteria

- Identify and locate appropriate grave site.

1.2 Prepare and use personal protective equipment.

Range may include but is not limited to – protective clothing, head protection, foot protection, eye protection, ear protection, sun protection, two-way radio.

1.3 Assess grave shoring requirements in relation to depth of grave and soil conditions.

Range soil types and conditions may include but are not limited to – sand, clay, rock, length of time soil exposed, breakdown of cohesion strength of soil, soil fretting, soil compaction, tension cracks.

1.4 Use appropriate tools and equipment to manually dig grave to suit dimensions of coffin or casket.

1.5 Place displaced earth on vehicle, vacant site, or other appropriate location pending backfilling or removal.

1.6 Shore sides of the grave progressively during digging using an appropriate shoring method, where depth of grave exceeds 1.5m, or as instructed by supervisor.

Range shoring methods may include but are not limited to – box set; closed timbering for wet sand or refilled ground; soldier set or box sets for firm, hard clay; shields where suitable for rock; grave sleeve.

1.7 Undertake entry and exit to and from confined spaces by means of a certified ladder.

Outcome 2

Implement strategies to minimise risk of grave collapse.

Performance criteria

2.1 Maintain surface loadings at levels appropriate for the soil type and condition.

2.2 Monitor excavation for grave collapse warning signs.

2.3 Identify grave collapse warning signs and changes to the stability of the wall.

2.4 Identify and discuss with supervisor appropriate strategies to prevent the grave collapse.

Range may include but is not limited to – shore grave where there is excessive water in the grave or collapse is evident or likely; reducing soil loadings.

2.5 Implement selected strategies.

Range evidence of two strategies is required.

Outcome 3

Clean up and make safe an open grave site for later use.

Performance criteria

3.1 Install and secure a grave cover to ensure public safety.

3.2 Remove and tidy area adjacent to grave.

Outcome 4

Clean up and make safe an open grave site for immediate use.

Performance criteria

4.1 Remove tools and tidy area adjacent to grave.

4.2 Place grave supports and lowering devices in readiness for the coffin or casket.

4.3 Place protective restraints to limit access to the site when grave is left unattended.

Range may include but is not limited to – sheeting, barricades, temporary fencing, reinforced covers.

Planned review date	31 December 2026
----------------------------	------------------

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	20 June 2006	31 December 2024
Review	2	24 February 2022	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0052
--	------

This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Muka Tangata - People, Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council qualifications@mukatangata.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.