

Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Horticulture (Level 3) with strands in Amenity, Arboriculture, Cemetery, Fruit Production, Indoor Crop Production, Outdoor Vegetable Production, Landscape Construction, Nursery Production, Post-Harvest, and Sports Turf

Qualification number: 2678

Date of review: 30 July 2020

This report refers to graduates awarded this qualification prior to: **31 December 2019**

Final decision on consistency of the qualification: National consistency is confirmed

Threshold:

The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence of the graduate, under limited supervision, being able to:

- Work as an effective member of a team relevant to a role in the horticulture sector
- Have the skills and knowledge to assist with a range of core tasks relevant to the horticulture industry sector across all strands
- Carry out tasks in a safe, appropriate and effective manner.

In addition:

Graduates of the Amenity strand will also be able to:

- Carry out routine maintenance of parks and open spaces.
- Carry out routine maintenance of plants and gardens in parks and open spaces.

Graduates of the Arboriculture strand will also be able to:

- Carry out routine arboriculture duties and site clean-up.
- Carry out routine tree planting and care.

Graduates of the Cemetery strand will also be able to:

- Dig, reinstate, disinter, shore, and maintain graves.

Graduates of the Fruit Production strand will also be able to:

- Carry out routine seasonal fruit production tasks.

Graduates of the Indoor Crop Production strand will also be able to:

- Carry out routine seasonal indoor crop production tasks.

Graduates of the Outdoor Vegetable Production strand will also be able to:

- Carry out routine seasonal outdoor vegetable production tasks.

Graduates of the Landscape Construction strand will also be able to:

- Carry out routine tasks associated with the implementation of a landscape design.

Graduates of the Nursery Production strand will also be able to:

- Carry out routine nursery production tasks.

Graduates of the Post-Harvest strand will also be able to:

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- Carry out operational tasks within post-harvest production systems.
- Co-ordinate the availability of inventory and consumables for continuous post-harvest grading and packing.

Graduates of the Sports Turf strand will also be able to:

- Carry out routine maintenance of sports surfaces consistent with enterprise and sports code specifications.

Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

The following education organisations have been found to have sufficient evidence.

MOE Number	Education Organisation	Final rating
6010	Manukau Institute of Technology Ltd.	Sufficient
6019	Waikato Institute of Technology Ltd.	Sufficient
6025	Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology Ltd.	Sufficient
7921	Bay of Plenty Technical Institute Limited (T/A Pacific Coast Technical Institute)	Sufficient
8105	Primary Industry Training Organisation	Sufficient
6013	Otago Polytechnic Ltd.	Sufficient
6007	Eastern Institute of Technology Ltd.	Sufficient
7999	New Zealand Sports Turf Institute Limited	Sufficient
6015	Southern Institute of Technology Ltd.	Sufficient
7402	National Trade Academy Limited	Sufficient

Introduction

The purpose of this qualification is to provide the horticulture industry with individuals who have the skills and knowledge to assist with a range of core tasks relevant to a horticulture industry sector.

The qualification has strands to recognise the specific skills and knowledge for horticulture production sectors. Learners benefit by having a qualification within a training pathway that recognises progression through the industry, as well as increased skills and knowledge acquisition to enable improved job performance. The horticulture industry benefits by having staff that can carry out tasks in a safe, appropriate, and effective manner.

This qualification is ideal for people who may have some general experience, or have a desire to work, in the horticulture industry who want to develop their skills and knowledge in a specific horticultural industry sector.

Graduates will be capable of working under limited supervision with responsibility for work outcomes.

This qualification had ten education organisations (including the ITO) with graduates. Numbers of graduates range from five to 176 with 553 graduates overall.

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Evidence

The education organisations provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes.

The criteria used to judge the evaluation question were:

- The nature, quality and integrity of the evidence presented by the education organisation
- How well the organisation has analysed, interpreted and validated the evidence, and used the understanding gained to achieve actual or improved consistency
- The extent to which the education organisation can reasonably justify and validate claims and statements relating to the consistency of graduate outcomes, including in relation to other providers of programmes leading to the qualification.

Evidence was presented to demonstrate robust alignment of programme learning outcomes with the graduate profile outcomes (GPOs) of the qualification. Graduate and employer feedback were sought, and although employer response rates of some institutes were low, the feedback gained provided valuable insights into the achievement of the GPOs. Evidence of internal and external moderation that assured that the programmes were assessed at an appropriate level was also provided. Destination data confirmed that the majority of graduates who responded had gained employment or went on to further study in related fields. Also included were employer feedback, destination and pathway data of graduates, feedback from graduates and next level tutors.

How well does the self-assessment and supporting evidence provided by the education organisation demonstrate that its graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold?

Programme mapping with GPOs to learning outcomes was explicit and noted the further alignment with the level 4 programme. This was further supported with feedback gained from the level 4 pathway tutors.

Detailed documentation from all providers demonstrated that programme content and delivery aligned to the GPOs. This was then mapped to various assessments with each module relevant to the particular qualification strand.

Programme reviews are undertaken annually and any actions resulting from the analysis are carried out before the next programme delivery.

All providers had a robust internal and external moderation plan, process and outcomes which verified that assessment was reliable and valid. External moderation is completed via cluster groups and/or the Primary Industry Training Organisation (PITO) and most were also involved in a moderation with the Primary Industry Polytechnic Tutors' Association (PIPTA).

Responses from graduates show they are more confident in their roles since completing the qualification, have gained skills to better do their role and those already employed are more knowledgeable and have often progressed in their employment. A number of graduates are already completing level 4 horticulture programmes.

Surveys for consistency reviews are beginning to become business as usual for most providers and often coincide or are integrated with programme review self-assessment

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schedules. All surveys were worded to include a translation of the GPO statements so as to elicit good evidence of the graduates meeting the outcomes.

Overall, the self-assessment and supporting evidence supplied, by those organisations found sufficient, demonstrates that their graduates meet the graduate outcomes at the determined threshold.

Special Focus

This qualification has ten strands, with the number of education organisations offering these in parenthesis – Amenity (2), Arboriculture (2), Cemetery (0), Fruit Production(4), Indoor Crop Production(0), Outdoor Vegetable Production(0), Landscape Construction(4), Nursery Production(4), Post-Harvest, and Sports Turf (2).

Examples of good practice

All education organisations provided comprehensive and clear self-assessment summary reports and gave good presentations with additional supporting documentation either during or following the review. They demonstrated a good understanding of the requirements of consistency and a significant level of self-reflection.

Issues and concerns

The expectations from Industry for the level 3 graduate is higher than the outcomes required. Timeframes for covering all the aspects in each strand was noted as an issue. It is becoming increasingly evident that gaining feedback from employers is challenging with several graduates not giving permission for employers to be contacted.

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

Following some discussion, it was noted that the word 'Amenity' as a Strand was not well understood by prospective learners and changing this word to something more well understood by novices coming in to learn, would be pertinent.