

Title	Describe, prepare and use soil-less growing media		
Level	3	Credits	5

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: describe soil-less growing media constituents and characteristics of soil-less growing media; and mix soil-less media.
----------------	---

Classification	Horticulture > Nursery Production
-----------------------	-----------------------------------

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

Guidance Information

- 1 Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes but is not limited to:
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015; and any subsequent amendments.
- 2 Definition

Nursery crop refers to a crop of no less than 50 plants.

Workplace procedures refers to the policies and procedures on safety and operation set down by the employer or organisation.
- 3 All evidence presented in this unit standard must be in accordance with workplace procedures.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Describe soil-less growing media constituents.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Describe common constituents of soil-less media in terms of their effects on physical properties.

Range evidence of eight types of soil-less media is required.
- 1.2 Describe common fertilisers and additives in soil-less media in terms of their purpose.
- 1.3 Describe the desired physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil-less media in terms of how constituents used can achieve this.

Outcome 2

Describe the characteristics of soil-less growing media.

Performance criteria

2.1 Describe soil-less media in terms of the limitations for a particular use.

Range evidence of three limitations is required.

2.2 Describe growing medium contamination in terms of the potential sources at preparation, mixing, storage, and movement stages and how contamination is avoided or controlled.

2.3 Describe the soil-less media for a range of plants in terms of the requirements.

Range evidence of five different nursery crops, and three different types of soil-less media are required.

Outcome 3

Mix soil-less media.

Range evidence of least two uses is required.

Performance criteria

3.1 Select and measure quantities consistent with the media use and recipe.

3.2 Mix ingredients to achieve even distribution of ingredients.

Range mixing includes but is not limited to – hand mixing, front-end loader, mechanical media mixer; evidence of one is required.

3.3 Use contamination prevention measures when preparing, mixing, storing, and moving media.

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	23 February 2004	31 December 2014
Revision	2	24 February 2006	31 December 2014
Review	3	19 April 2012	31 December 2021
Review	4	19 January 2017	31 December 2024
Review	5	28 April 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.