

Title	Demonstrate knowledge of obtaining and maintaining organic certification for horticulture operations		
Level	4	Credits	5

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: explain the requirements for maintaining organic certification; identify how certification integrity may be endangered in organic horticulture operations; and outline the requirements of an organic management plan for a horticultural operation to obtain organic certification.
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Classification	Horticulture > Production Horticulture
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- The following standards apply to this unit standard:
Demeter Standards, Bio Dynamic Farming and Gardening Association, PO Box 39045, Wellington Mail Centre, Phone 04 589 5366, Fax 04 589 4365, <http://www.biodynamic.org.nz>;
BIO-GRO Standards, BIO-GRO New Zealand, PO Box 9693, Marion Square, Wellington, Phone 04 801 9741, Fax 04 801 9742, <http://www.bio-gro.co.nz>;
Agriquality New Zealand, Agriquality Organic Standards, <http://www.agriquality.co.nz>;
The Soil and Health Association of New Zealand (Organic Farm New Zealand), <http://www.organicnz.org>;
The New Zealand Food Safety Authority, <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/organics>;
NZS 8410:2003 *Organic production*, available from Standards New Zealand <http://www.standards.co.nz>.
- Recommended: Unit Standard 21040, *Describe the scope and application of standards applying to organic horticulture in New Zealand*, or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Explain the requirements for maintaining organic certification.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 The certification process is explained.
- Range conversion periods, management plan, risk management, record keeping, compliance with organic standard, audit and assessment.
- 1.2 Requirement to maintain organic integrity during conversion from conventional to organic horticulture production under organic standards is explained.
- Range partial certification, full certification, full compliance, parallel production.
- 1.3 Reasons for a conversion period are explained.
- Range three of – past land use, residues, biodiversity, established pest and disease control, validation of management practices, creation of a 'balanced' production environment.

Outcome 2

Identify how certification integrity may be endangered in organic horticulture operations.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Site factors that may influence certification are described.
- Range neighbouring non-organic activities, contaminated water source, previous use of site, government imposed pest eradication.
- 2.2 Operational practices which may affect certification are described.
- Range non-dedicated equipment, application of non-complying post-harvest treatments, use of non-approved propagation materials, use of non-approved inputs.
- 2.3 Management practices which affect the integrity of organic certification are described.
- Range knowledge of organic standards, staff training, record keeping.

Outcome 3

Outline the requirements of an organic management plan for a horticultural operation to obtain organic certification.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Physical characteristics of the site are determined.
- Range neighbouring land use, condition of shelterbelts, past land use, current land use, water catchments.

3.2 Operational and management practices that may endanger certification are identified and the reasons for this are described in each case.

Range prohibited inputs, contaminated cultivation and spray equipment, spill containment, cultural crop management.

3.3 Organic management plan identifies policies and procedures to be implemented that manage risks to the integrity of certification.

Range organic management policies and procedures, record keeping, staff training, internal audits, corrective action, relationships with neighbouring land users.

3.4 Procedures developed for monitoring performance are identified.

Range management review and planning, internal audit, product testing.

Replacement information	This unit standard replaced unit standard 10336.
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This unit standard is expiring. Assessment against the standard must take place by the last date for assessment set out below.

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	27 October 2006	31 December 2023
Review	2	24 November 2022	31 December 2023

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0032
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.