

<b>Title</b>	<b>Demonstrate and apply knowledge of vermiculture</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>5</b>

<b>Purpose</b>	People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate knowledge of vermiculture; apply the principles of vermiculture and describe the use of products of vermiculture.
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<b>Classification</b>	Horticulture > Production Horticulture
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<b>Available grade</b>	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.biogro.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.nz>;  
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>.
- Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes but is not limited to: Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992; Resource Management Act 1991; and Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996.
- Workplace procedures* refer to verbal or written instructions to staff on procedures for the worksite and equipment.

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### Outcomes and performance criteria

#### Outcome 1

Demonstrate knowledge of vermiculture.

**Performance criteria**

- 1.1 Production of vermicast or worm compost using worms as digesters is described.
- Range digestion, lifecycle, establishment of a worm farm, suitable types of worms.
- 1.2 Feed habit of worms and feed materials are identified.
- Range vertical feeding, preferred feed materials, feed materials to avoid.
- 1.3 Conditions for optimal worm activity are described.
- Range temperature, moisture, pH, physical environment.
- 1.4 Certification issues related to worm composting are described.

**Outcome 2**

Apply the principles of vermiculture.

**Performance criteria**

- 2.1 Worm farm is maintained so that worm activity is sustained.
- Range appropriate feeding, pH management, proper functioning of worm farm is checked and maintained, removal of excess liquid.
- 2.2 Finished casts are harvested according to organic standards and workplace procedures.
- Range casts are harvested without causing inappropriate disturbance of worm farm.

**Outcome 3**

Describe the use of products of vermiculture.

**Performance criteria**

- 3.1 The use of vermicast in the production of organic horticultural products is described.
- Range seed raising mix, liquid preparation, soil amendments.
- 3.2 Liquid vermicast is diluted to appropriate strength for foliar and fertigation applications.

**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	30 June 2022	31 December 2023

**Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference**

0032

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