

**U16702****Maintain general amenity turf**

## Unit Descriptor:

This unit is about dealing with threats to the health of turf (for example, pests and diseases). It also covers moving and edging grass. It is for members of staff who can carry out the work described under limited supervision only.

The typical task you would carry out to complete this unit includes:

- Monitoring the health and vigour of amenity turf.
- Identifying ill health and potential causes ill health to amenity turf.
- Controlling weeds, pest and diseases by physical, cultural and chemical means using non-powered manual and powered manual equipment.
- Rectifying and soil and environmental conditions likely to include ill health to amenity turf.
- Preparing the surface for mowing and edging by clearing debris .
- Mowing to a height between 8-18mm
- Edging with hand sears and string trimmers.
- Watering by hand and simple rotary and oscillating sprinklers.
- Feeding with solid fertilizers by hand and by distributors.
- Top dressing
- Disposing of cuttings.

Use of equipment, chemicals and all other activities must meet the requirements of the law and codes of practice.

**ELEMENT****PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

*To be competent you must achieve the following:*

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| 1. Maintain the health of general amenity turf | 1.1 Inspect turf as requested.   |
|  | 1.2 Identity <b>threats to turf health</b> promptly.   |
|  | 1.3 Select and use tools, equipment and materials safely, efficiently and correctly.                           |
|  | 1.4 Use <b>methods of dealing with threats to health</b> which are appropriate to the turf and its conditions. |

- 1.5 Keep damage, unnecessary waste, unwanted impact to turf and environmental pollution to a minimum.
- 1.6 Clean tools and equipment and store tools, equipment and materials securely.
2. Maintain the conditions of general amenity turf
  - 2.1 Select and use **tools and equipment** safely, efficiently and correctly.
  - 2.2 Clear any debris.
  - 2.3 Make sure the turf is in an appropriate condition for maintenance.
  - 2.4 **Maintain** the finish of the turf so that it can be used for its intended purpose and that it looks attractive.
  - 2.5 Keep damage to the surroundings to a minimum.
  - 2.6 Dispose of grass cuttings efficiently and with minimal environmental pollution.
  - 2.7 Leave the site in a clean and tidy condition.
  - 2.8 Clean and store tools and equipment promptly and securely.

**RANGE STATEMENT**

*You must cover the items below:*

**Element 1: Maintain the health of general amenity turf****A. Select and use all of the following types of tools and equipment: (*Also applies to element 2*)**

- (i) hand tools
- (ii) string trimmers

**B. Use all of the following methods to maintain the turf: (*Also applies to element 2*)**

- (i) mowing
- (ii) edging
- (iii) feeding
- (iv) watering
- (v) top dressing
- (vi) repair

**UNDERPINNING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**

1. The importance of checking turf regularly and what this means for a range of species.
2. The impact that the seasons have on turf maintenance.
3. The impact of soil conditions on long and short term turf health vigour.
4. The differences in watering regimes for different types of turfs.
5. The effects of different types of fertilizers on turf.
6. The effect of top dressing and liquid feeding.
7. How to identify a range of turf conditions and threats to turf health.
8. What methods are correct and effective for the threats to turf health for a range of species.
9. The equipment you should use in the maintenance of turf health.
10. How to use, maintain, clean and store such equipment correctly.
11. Culture methods for improving health and vigour of turf.
12. Materials for pest, disease and weed control.
13. The potential for environmental pollution and how to prevent it.
14. The importance of minimizing damage and unnecessary waste and how to do so.
15. The relevant health and safety legislation and codes or practice.
16. The conditions that are appropriate for cutting grass.

17. How climate and soil conditions affect turf growth and its need for maintenance.
18. How to select the correct tools and equipment for turf maintenance.
19. How to use the required tools and equipment safely and efficiently.
20. How to identify when the height of grass and finish of edges meets requirements.
21. The effects of boxing off and leaving grass cutting in situ.
22. How to dispose of grass cuttings in a way which is effective and environmentally friendly.
23. The importance of cleaning and storing the required tools and equipment promptly and securely.
24. How to identify whether the site is clean and tidy following mowing.
25. The mowing hazards and relevant legislations and codes of practice covering this area of work.
26. The legal restrictions of taking mowers onto the public highway.

## EVIDENCE GUIDE

*For assessment purposes:*

### (1) Critical Aspects of Evidence

Assessment should involve observation of work processes at intervals when mowing and edging grass and when dealing with threats to the health of turf (for example, pests and diseases). It would also involve questioning related to underpinning knowledge.

Performance evidence must be provided for all of the performance criteria in this unit.

You must be able to promptly identify and deal with **three** of the following **threats to turf health**:

- a. pests
- b. diseases
- c. environmental conditions
- d. competing growth

Additionally, you must be able to give **two** examples of threats to turf for each of the **three** examples you choose.

You must be able to use **two** of the following **methods of dealing with threats to turf health**:

- e. physical
- f. chemical
- g. cultural
- h. irrigation

When maintaining the condition of general amenity turf you are required to select and use **all** of the following types of **tools and equipment**:

- i. Non-powered hand tools
- j. Powered hand tools
- k. String trimmers

You must also show that you can use **all** of the following methods to **maintain** the turf:

- l. Mowing
- m. Edging
- n. Fertilising
- o. Watering
- p. Top dressing
- q. Repair

Use of equipment, chemical and all other activities must meet the requirements of the law and relevant codes of practice.

## **(2) Methods of Assessment**

Observation by your assessor of you:

- Monitoring the health and vigour of amenity turf
- Identifying ill health and potential causes of ill health to amenity turf
- Controlling weeds, pests and diseases by physical, cultural and chemical means using manual non-powered and manual powered equipment
- Mowing to the required height.
- Edging with hand shears and string trimmers
- Carrying out top dressing
- Disposing of cuttings

Answers to written or oral questions from your assessor.

## **(3) Context of Assessment**

Evidence from simulations is **not** acceptable for this unit.