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Citrus Orchard Foreman Occupational Learning

Work Scenario Guide

B7: Young Tree Care

Qualification:	110667 – Occupational Certificate: Orchard and Vineyard Foreman
Work Scenario:	B7: Young Tree Care
Learning Area:	B: Lead the establishment of new citrus orchard
Scenario Description:	Young trees need to be cared for after planting to ensure that they settle and grow into healthy trees with a long life. You need to oversee their care to ensure that they are healthy, protected from pests and diseases, and sufficiently irrigated.

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1st edition (06/2026)

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Contents

Alignment Information	4
Qualification	4
Modules	4
Learning Outcomes	5
Chapter 1 Post-Planting Care	6
1. Post-Planting Care	6
2. Tree Replacement	6
3. Preventing Cross-Contamination	7

Alignment Information

Qualification

The content of this learner guide is aligned to the following occupational qualification:

SAQA QUAL ID	Qualification Title			
110667	Occupational Certificate: Orchard and Vineyard Foreman			
Originator				
Development Quality Partner – AgriSETA				
Primary Or Delegated Quality Assurance Functionary			NQF Sub-Framework	
-			OQSF - Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework	
QUALIFICATION TYPE		FIELD		SUBFIELD
Occupational Certificate		Field 01 - Agriculture and Nature Conservation		Primary Agriculture
Abet Band	Minimum Credits	Pre-2009 NQF Level	NQF Level	Qual Class
Undefined	147	Not Applicable	NQF Level 04	Regular-ELOAC

Modules

The content of this learner guide is aligned to the following modules of the occupational qualification above.

Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credits
Knowledge Modules			
611202-001-00-KM-01	Plant Structure and Physiology	4	5
611202-001-00-KM-02	Vineyard or Orchard Establishment	3	2
611202-001-00-KM-03	Vineyard or Orchard Manipulation Processes	3	8
611202-001-00-KM-04	Harvesting	3	4
611202-001-00-KM-05	Basic Principles of Plant Nutrition	4	4
611202-001-00-KM-06	Crop Protection	3	3
611202-001-00-KM-07	Assets in Horticultural Production	3	2
611202-001-00-KM-08	Farm Business Management and Farming Process Management	4	8
611202-001-00-KM-09	Human Resource Management and Processes	4	8
611202-001-00-KM-10	Overseeing Farming Resource Utilisation	4	8
Practical Skill Modules			
611202-001-00-PM-01	Organise, Allocate and Monitor Availability and Productive Use of Resources	4	5
611202-001-00-PM-2a	Set Team and Individual Performance Goals to Enhancing Team Performance	4	10
611202-001-00-PM-2b	Control Vineyard or Orchard Practices	4	10

611202-001-00-PM-03	Supply Accurate Daily Orchard or Vineyard and Production Information	4	10
Work Experience Modules			
611202-001-00-WM-01	Vineyard or Orchard Resource Optimisation	4	20
611202-001-00-WM-02	Skilled and Motivated Work Team Output	4	20
611202-001-00-WM-03	Daily Orchard or Vineyard and Production Information Availability	4	20

Learning Outcomes

The content of this learner guide is aligned to the following learning outcomes of the modules above.

Knowledge Topics	
Outcome Code	Module Title
KM-01-KT01	Plant structure and physiology
IAC0108	Young plant growth and development stages are described in terms of the practices and procedures that are implemented at those stages
KM-02-KT04	Crop establishment
IAC0408	The aftercare required by a particular crop is outlined and the effect of insufficient aftercare on plant growth is discussed
IAC0409	The requirements of plants immediately after planting is outlined and explained
IAC0410	Production practices for young plants such as irrigation, weed control, pest and disease control are discussed
KM-08-KT06	Farm renewal strategy
IAC0604	Methods and operations to be applied in the establishment of new orchards/vineyards are discussed
IAC0605	The aspects to be considered in the replacement of orchards/vineyards are evaluated
Practical Skills	

Chapter 1

Post-Planting Care

learning outcomes

The content of this chapter is aimed at helping you to:

- Care for young trees immediately after planting.

1. Post-Planting Care

Now that you have successfully planted the young trees, we can discuss how to care for them in the period after planting. When planted, the root volume of the young tree is small relative to the leaf area. This can lead to excessive transpiration and thus a loss of water. Thus, we recommend pruning the canopy to leave two or three well-spaced framework branches of 20cm to 30cm in length to reduce transpiration.

In windy areas, you should remove all framework branches by topping the trees, which will give the stem time to thicken as new framework branches form. This thicker stem will limit wind damage and the risk of being uprooted by very strong wind. It is generally recommended that you use stem protectors, made of paper or straw, or painting stems with whitewash (diluted PVA), to protect the stems of young trees from the sun.

You should remove any new growth (suckers) that develop lower down on the stem and particularly those that develop at ground level at regular intervals. You should be very careful to never tear these suckers off, but to always use pruning shears. Tears in the bark at that level could be entry points for pathogens. Stem protectors also inhibit the growth of suckers.

Aside from these specific practices, a well-managed weed, pest and disease control program and an effective fertilisation program are also absolutely vital to ensure healthy tree development.

2. Tree Replacement

Unfortunately, even if you do everything to the best of your ability, some trees may develop poorly or become unhealthy, at no fault of your own. In this situation, the poorly developing or unhealthy trees will need to be uprooted and replaced with healthy trees.

Luckily, if you have properly prepared the orchard for the planting, and you carefully planted healthy trees and cared for them well, you will most probably need to replace only a small percentage, if any.

Poor tree development can occur due to a number of factors, either alone or in combination. The most common causes of poor tree development include:

- Poor water supply
- Inadequate staking
- Inadequate wind protection
- Ringbarking by stake fasteners
- Insect damage

➤ Root rot (Phytophthora)

Aside from requiring replacing, the poorly developing newly planted trees need to be examined carefully. This is to ensure that you can identify the exact cause(s) and, where possible, mitigate the damage to the other trees that are still developing well.

For example, if you see a group of young trees dying or not developing, you may examine them and discover symptoms that indicate a lack of water. You may investigate further and find that your irrigation system is not working properly. By finding this out, and fixing the issue by repairing the irrigation system, you will have saved yourself from many more trees dying than if you had simply replaced the sick trees and moved on.

Replacing trees in a new planting, also referred to as infilling, should be done within the first three years after planting. The older the orchard, the more difficult it is to develop the infilled trees to fill the space of the trees it is replacing and produce equally to the others.

There are a number of actions that you can take to achieve this development of the replacement trees in the shortest possible time. Firstly, it is important that the soil is in good condition, that irrigation is functioning properly, that pests and diseases are under control, and that all trees are receiving proper nutrition.

3. Preventing Cross-Contamination

If your trees were obtained from an accredited citrus nursery (as they should be) they should be free from all known viral diseases which could have a negative effect on tree development and production of quality fruit. Production practices in the newly planted orchard should be aimed at maintaining that healthy, disease-free status.

It is standard practice to prune citrus trees throughout their lives to shape them for optimum production. This does introduce a risk for spreading diseases, as many (especially old) orchards are infected with viral diseases, which can be transmitted on pruning equipment to the young trees.

This means that it is very important to disinfect all pruning equipment such as saws, pruning shears and loppers when moving between orchards, or even from row to row or tree to tree. Any of several disinfectants can be used, but it is best to ask your tool manufacturer which product they recommend.

When pruning in an orchard of trees of the same origin, pruning equipment must be sterilised at least in the morning before starting, after lunch and in the afternoons after work. Always sterilise when moving from one orchard to another. Mechanical pruning equipment should also be sterilised between orchards. You should stress the importance of sterilisation while training your workers, and supervise it closely during pruning.

summary

Chapter 1 – Post-Planting Care

- When planted, the root volume of the young tree is small relative to the leaf area, which can lead to excessive transpiration and moisture loss.
- Pruning the young tree's canopy to leave two or three well-spaced framework branches of 20cm to 30cm is recommended to reduce transpiration.
- In windy areas, you should remove all framework branches by topping the trees, which will give the stem time to thicken as new framework branches form.
- You should use stem protectors or paint stems with whitewash to protect the stems of young trees from the sun.

- You should remove any new growth (suckers) that develop lower down on the stem and particularly those that develop at ground level at regular intervals.
- Suckers should never be torn off, and should always be cut off with pruning shears.
- Poorly developing or unhealthy trees will need to be uprooted and replaced with healthy trees.
- The most common causes of poor tree development include poor water supply, inadequate staking, inadequate wind protection, ringbarking by stake fasteners, insect damage, and root rot (*Phytophthora*).
- Poorly developed trees need to be examined to determine the cause of poor development.
- Replacing trees in a new planting, also referred to as infilling, should be done within the first three years after planting.
- Trees from an accredited citrus nursery should be free from all known viral diseases.
- Pruning introduces a risk for spreading diseases on pruning equipment.
- All pruning equipment must be disinfected at least between orchards, but ideally from row to row or tree to tree.

assessment activities

- ✓ **Activity P1:** Complete this activity to test your knowledge of post-planting care.
- ✓ **Activity F1:** Complete this activity to test your knowledge of the entire module.