

Pot Up Plants



Learning Guide

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Student name:.....

Student number:.....

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to *Pot Up Plants*. You may need to pot up plants in wholesale or retail nursery work or when doing revegetation or landscaping work. This could be when you are working for your council, doing ranger work or when managing your own country. Training should be completed on the job in a plant nursery over an extended period of time.



It is recommended you do Undertake Propagation Activities before doing Pot Up Plants. You could then do Tend Nursery Plants when you have finished Pot Up Plants.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

To complete this training you will need the following:

1. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
2. Safety gear including first aid kit and water.
3. Hand tools such as spades, trowels and watering cans.
4. A range of pots and potting mixes.
5. Seedlings or plants to pot up.

ASSIGNMENTS

There are three assignments you will need to complete.

Some of these assignments may go towards your final assessment.

Section	Assignment	Competent (C) Not yet competent (NYC)	Date Achieved
Getting Prepared	Assignment 1. Project Risk Assessment		
Potting Mixes	Assignment 2. Plants Ready to Pot Up		
Potting Up			
Finishing Up	Assignment 3. Pot Up Plants		

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GETTING PREPARED

1A. COLLECTING INFORMATION

Information about potting up plants can be obtained from many sources. There are a few excellent books available that will help you should you require more detailed information. The learning guide for *Undertake Propagation Activities* has a good reference list.

There is also information available online.

1. The Nursery and Garden Industry Association has lots of resources including useful publications and a link to the Nursery and Garden Industry Northern Territory.



www.ngia.com.au

2. Information specific to horticulture in the NT can be found at the Northern Territory Horticultural Association.



www.ntha.com.au

3. For Australia wide information and resources on propagating native plants try the Greening Australia web site.



www.greeningaustralia.org.au

1B. POTTING UP PLANTS SAFELY

There are some dangers associated with potting up plants. It is important that you be aware of some of the potential dangers so you can avoid getting injured or sick.

Some of the things you can do to keep yourself safe include:

1. Wear thick gardening or rubber gloves at all times.
2. Wear appropriate clothes for outdoors (long trousers, boots etc.).
3. Wear protective footwear at all times, in some situations you may need rubber boots.
4. In wet weather always use waterproof clothing.
5. Keep safe distances away from other workers around hand tools.
6. Learn how to maintain and use hand tools correctly to avoid injury.
7. Always lift heavy objects correctly to avoid injuring your back (see Resource 1 for correct lifting procedures).
8. Know where your first aid kit is stored first aid kit and make sure someone has a first aid certificate.



RISKS WHEN HANDLING POTTING MIXES

The handling of potting mixes requires special care to protect yourself from getting sick.

Some potting mixes contain a harmful bacteria called Legionella. The bacteria can cause Legionellosis, a type of pneumonia (this is not Legionnaires disease which is caused by a different Legionella bacteria found in air conditioner cooling towers).

To reduce the risk of infection when handling potting mixes follow these recommendations:

1. Handle all mixes with care to avoid breathing in dust.
2. Moisten the mix to avoid creating dust.
3. Wear suitable PPE to avoid contact with skin and eyes – gloves, dust mask, protective eyewear.
4. Avoid transferring the potting mix from hand to mouth – wash your hands before smoking, eating or drinking, even if you wore gloves.
5. Wash work clothes regularly.
6. Clean work area by wet-sweeping or vacuuming.
7. Seal any opened bags or containers after use and store in a cool location.

Before you begin, use this checklist to confirm you have followed good safety procedures and have all the right resources.

SAFETY CHECKLIST ACTIVITY



Long trousers, shirt and boots		
Hat and gloves		
Sunscreen, insect repellent and sunglasses		
Dust mask		
Additional PPE as needed		
Water		
First aid kit		



Legionella bacteria infects the lungs when breathed in. Symptoms of Legionella infection include: fever, dry cough, breathlessness and chest pain. Other things in the potting mix can also cause lung irritation, asthma, hay fever, inflamed nose and throat – even more reason to be careful.



1 – GETTING PREPARED

1C. WHAT IS POTTING UP?

Propagating plants involves sowing seeds and fruits, making cuttings and other methods to make new plants.

Once plants are established in their pot or tube, with developed root systems, they need to be transplanted into larger pots or containers. Sometimes this can happen more than once if quite a large plant is needed, or if plants need to be kept for long periods. This process is called potting up.

Potting up to the right size container will ensure that plants are healthy and strong.



1D. TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

Using the correct tools will make potting up easier and will help to keep you free from injury.

Tick off the items you think you will need for your potting up activity.

ACTIVITY



Buckets			Trowel		
Bleach			Watering can		
Broom			Hoses		
Pots and other containers			Fertiliser		
Potting mix			Plant labels		
Wheelbarrow			Pencils		
Shovel			Rubbish bins		