

**Specification of Competency Standards**  
**for the Arboriculture & Horticulture Industry**  
**Unit of Competency**

Functional Area - Diagnosis and Treatment of Pests and Diseases

Title	Diagnose abiotic disorders of plants
Code	109124L3
Range	This unit of competency is applicable to technical personnel who are engaged in diagnosis of plant problems in the arboriculture and horticulture industry. Practitioners should be capable of mastering the methods for diagnosing abiotic plant disorders, as well as analysing the causes of the abiotic disorders of the target plants and making accurate diagnoses through detailed observation and inspection.
Level	3
Credit	3 (For Reference Only)
Competency	<p>Performance Requirements</p> <p>1. Possess knowledge related to diagnosing abiotic disorders of plants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehend the common plant species</li> <li>• Comprehend the types of abiotic plant disorders and their symptoms and signs</li> <li>• Comprehend the methods for diagnosing abiotic plant disorders</li> <li>• Familiarise with the use of diagnostic tools and equipment</li> <li>• Comprehend the relationship between plant health and living environment</li> <li>• Comprehend the causes of plant disorders and the abiotic factors that affect the growth and health of plants</li> <li>• Familiarise with the workflow and technical requirements of sample collection and delivery</li> </ul> <p>2. Diagnose abiotic disorders of plants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the species of the infected plants</li> <li>• Look for a pattern of abnormality in the infected plants and check for the symptoms and signs</li> <li>• Examine the living environment of the infected plants on-site and collect the environmental data</li> <li>• Examine the health conditions of the infected plants</li> <li>• Collect plant or soil samples and send them to the laboratory for testing when necessary</li> <li>• Analyse the causes of the plant disorders and the abiotic factors that affect the growth and health of the infected plants</li> <li>• Diagnose the types of abiotic disorders of the infected plants based on the analysis results</li> </ul> <p>3. Exhibit professionalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggest corresponding treatment methods according to the types of abiotic disorders of the infected plants</li> </ul>
Assessment Criteria	<p>The integrated outcome requirements of this unit of competency are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to identify the species of the target plants and their symptoms and signs to figure out the causes of the plant disorders; and</li> <li>• Able to analyse the causes of the plant disorders and find out the abiotic factors that affect the growth and health of the target plants based on the data collected, so as to make diagnoses.</li> </ul>
Remark	