No. 432 **30 April 2009**

SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SAQA)

In accordance with Regulation 24(c) of the Regulations of 28 March 1998, the Standards Generating Body (SGB) for

Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape

registered by Organising **Field 01 - Agriculture and Nature Conservation,** publishes the following Qualification and Unit Standard for public Comment.

This notice contains the titles, fields, sub-fields, NQF levels, credits, and purposes of the Qualification and Unit Standard.The full Qualification and Unit Standards can be accessed via the SAQA web-site at **www.saqa.org.za**. Copies may also be obtained from the Directorate for Standards Setting and Development at the SAQA offices, SAQA House, 1067 Arcadia Street, Hatfield, Pretoria.

Comments on the Qualification and Unit Standards should reach SAQA at the address ***below and no later than 01 June 2009.*** All correspondence should be marked **Standards Setting – SGB for Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape and** addressed to

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ACTING DIRECTOR: STANDARDS SETTING AND DEVELOPMENT

SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

QUALIFICATION:
National Certificate: Horticulture

SAQA QUAL ID	***QUALIFICATION TITLE***		
66589	National Certificate: Horticulture		
ORIGINATOR		***PROVIDER***	
SGB Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape			
QUALIFICATION TYPE	***FIELD***	***SUBFIELD***	
National Certificate	1 - Agriculture and Nature Conservation	Horticulture	
ABET BAND	***MINIMUM CREDITS***	***NQF LEVEL***	***QUAL CLASS***
Undefined	120	Level 2	Regular-Unit Stds Based

This qualification does not replace any other qualification and is not replaced by another qualification.

PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION
Purpose of the Qualification:

This qualification provides learners with a comprehensive base of portable skills that will enable them to progress within all spheres of the horticultural industry. This qualification forms an integral step in the career paths of the various disciplines in ornamental horticulture and follows on from the NQF Level 1 Certificate. For those already employed in the industry, this qualification will offer learners the opportunity to hone their skills and receive recognition for their competencies.

A Learner achieving this qualification will be able to work effectively and productively within the field of horticulture knowing how to:

- Identify the major soil types and their uses in plant propagation and landscaping.
- Utilise manual irrigation systems to provide the correct application of water to plants.
- Produce ornamental plants from stem cuttings.
- Apply pest control practices in plant production and landscaping.
- Utilise the principles and practices of providing plant care and nutrition for ornamental plants and landscapes.
- Recognition of common ornamental plants and their uses.

For those wishing to enter the industry, whether unemployed or as an Entrepreneur, this qualification offers a solid foundation in all aspects of the horticultural industry. This qualification represents a vital step in the development of a career and learning pathway of individuals, both from a vocational point of view, as well as from a learning point of view.

Rationale of the Qualification:

South Africa is renowned as an ideal tourist destination. The beauty of the gardens and landscapes in leisure facilities, parks and gardens, is an important factor in assuring that South Africa is considered a prime tourist attraction. To advance and improve our position in this important economic area the "Green Industry" must up-skill its workforce, for the creation of excellent landscapes.

The provision and maintenance of sports fields to world class standards is a perquisite for the 2010 World Cup Soccer tournament. This qualification addresses the industry's need to provide the basic skills to establish and maintain sports turf facilities.

The skills gained through this qualification will ensure that quality ornamental plants will be produced and marketed to the consumers.

The qualification will facilitate job creation and self employment opportunities, while furthering the aims of economic empowerment in South Africa.

The qualification includes the skills necessary to safely use various chemicals, including fuels, fertilisers, pest control agents, accordingly, the principles of health and safety are embedded in all the learning aspects of the qualification.

As the core is generic to all sectors of the horticultural industry, the qualification embodies the principle of portability and is integral to further learning. Through the wide scope of electives, the specialisations of the various sectors are catered for.

The sectors of the horticultural industry that will benefit from this qualification include:

- Landscape construction and maintenance.
- Amenity horticulture.
- Sports turf.
- Arboriculture.
- Plant propagation.
- Interior plantscaping.
- Retail nurseries.
- Floristry.

This qualification addresses both the current and future needs of horticulture in South Africa.

RECOGNIZE PREVIOUS LEARNING?
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LEARNING ASSUMED IN PLACE
The industry will encourage potential Learners to embark on this qualification as it has universal relevance to the industry and is nationally recognized.

Learners who would like to access this qualification should have demonstrated competency in:

- Literacy and Numeracy at NQF Level 1.
- ID 119687: Demonstrate a basic understanding of the horticultural industry, NQF Level 1.

Recognition of Prior Learning:

The qualification may be achieved wholly or in part through the Recognition of Prior Learning and the qualification may be granted to learners who have acquired the skills and knowledge without attending formal courses providing they can demonstrate competence in the outcomes of the individual Unit Standards as required by the Fundamental, core and Elective areas stipulated in the Qualification and by the Exit Level Outcomes.

An RPL process may also be used to credit learners with Unit Standards in which they have developed the necessary competency as a result of workplace and experiential learning.

QUALIFICATION RULES

The certificate is made up of a planned combination of learning outcomes that have a defined purpose and will provide qualifying learners with applied competence and a foundation for further learning.

The qualification consists of a minimum of 120 credits, composed of:

- Fundamental; 36 credits (compulsory).
- Core; 71 credits (compulsory).
- Electives; Learners must choose suitable Unit Standards from the listed elective to obtain a total of not less than 13 credits.

EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES

1. Identify the different organisms of the plant kingdom and their uses in horticulture.

2. Identify the different soil types and describe their uses in plant propagation and landscaping.

3. Operate a manual irrigation system and schedule the applications to suit the plants water requirements.

4. Utilise stem cuttings for the propagation of plants.

5. Implement the appropriate care for ornamental plants.

6. Identify ornamental plants commonly used in the workplace.

ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 1:

1.1 The various organisms of the plant kingdom are described in terms of their unique characteristics.
1.2 The role that organisms play in an ecosystem is explained within the context of the specific functions that they each perform.
1.2 An organism's environmental requirements are described in accordance with the particular conditions that are best suited to their growth and developmental needs.
1.4 The reproduction of organisms is explained within the context of the methods that are utilised to achieve their procreation.

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 2:

2.1 The main soil types are classified and described in accordance with their structure and composition.
2.2 Topsoil is defined in terms of its colouration, organic content and benefit to the growing environment for plants.
2.3 The determination of the infiltration rate of a soil is explained within the context of the factors that effect the speed of movement of water in the soil.
2.4 Capillary action is explained in terms of the role that it performs in the storage and transference of water in various soil types.

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 3:

3.3 Watering frequencies for various plants are determined in relation to prevailing climatic conditions.
3.4 Operating periods for the various zones of an irrigation system are selected to ensure that applications suit the plant's requirements and the soil's infiltration rate.
3.3 Basic maintenance procedures and techniques are utilised to effect minor repairs to irrigation equipment.

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 4:

4.1 The various stem types are identified in relation to their suitability for use as propagation material.
4.2 The selection criteria for stem cutting material is explained in terms of the specific requirements of each stem type.
4.3 The various stem cuts are made in accordance with the particular techniques that are required for the different stems types.
4.4 Cuttings are placed in a rooting media to optimise the growth and developmental potential of the plants.
4.5 The provision of primary care and "hardening off" procedures are performed within the specific requirements of each stem type.

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 5:

5.1 The necessity of providing the optimum environmental conditions for ornamental plants is explained within the context of the positive effects that these have on their growth and development.
5.2 Plants that require support are identified and the techniques used for staking and tying these are performed in accordance with the objectives of optimising their structure.
5.3 The need to deadhead specific plants is explained in terms of the necessity of conducting the practice.
5.4 The techniques for the formative pruning of certain plants are performed in accordance with the objectives.
5.5 The function and role of the feeding, weeding and pest control programs are explained and implemented to ensure that optimal plant growth is achieved.

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 6:

6.1 Trees, shrubs, climbing plants, ground covers, annuals and herbaceous plants that are commonly used in the workplace are described in terms of their particular characteristics.
6.2 The environmental conditions that the commonly used plants require are described in accordance with the particular conditions that are best suited to their growth and developmental needs.
6.3 The specific needs of the commonly used plants are identified and described in terms of the enhancement and maintenance of their growth.

Integrated Assessment:

The integrated assessment allows the Learners the opportunity to show that they are able to utilize concepts, ideas and actions across unit standards. This will allow Learners to achieve competency that is in keeping with the purpose of the qualification.

An integrated assessment will indicate how theoretical learning is demonstrated in a practical environment in such a way that the application of the work learnt becomes second nature.

In conducting an assessment, the quality of the performance must also be evaluated i.e. both the performance and the thinking behind the action must be qualitative.

The assessment should include both formative and summative options and should use various assessment tools i.e. not by observation only. It is suggested that a Portfolio of Assessment form part of the summative assessment, with practical outcomes being demonstrated in a simulated or real work place situation.