



Plant trees and shrubs

AHCPGD201

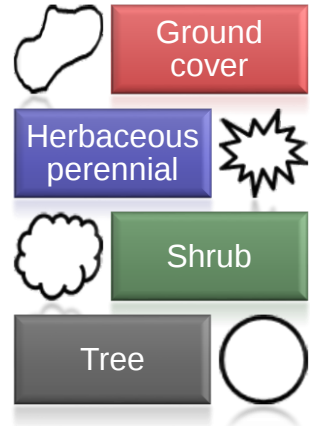
By the end of this topic, you should be able to:

- Prepare for planting operations
- Prepare trees and shrubs for planting
- Inspect plants and report problems
- Install trees, shrubs and/or other plants
- Complete work

Preparing for planting

- To prepare for planting tasks, you should familiarise yourself with the following:
 - **Task requirements**
 - Refer to the planting plan when marking out:
 - Layout of planting site, including the location of required planting
 - Location of main features
 - Apply active listening when receiving instructions
 - Clarify any unclear instructions with your supervisor

The following symbols may be found on a planting plan



- To prepare for planting tasks, you should familiarise yourself with the following:
 - **Workplace information**
 - This may be site-specific information, such as a site safety plan
 - Laws applicable to your workplace, such as:
 - Acts [e.g. *Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld)*]
 - Regulations [e.g. *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 (Qld)*]
 - Codes of Practice [e.g. *How to Manage Work Health and Safety Risks Code of Practice 2011 (Qld)*; *Hazardous Manual Tasks Code of Practice 2011 (Qld)*]

- To prepare for planting tasks, you should familiarise yourself with the following:
 - **Work area**
 - Identify any WHS hazards (e.g. injuries to your person, spread of pests/disease, environment contamination, heat stroke, sunburn)
 - Rectify and/or report hazards to your supervisor within a timely fashion – especially emergency situations

- To prepare for planting tasks, you should familiarise yourself with the following:
 - Available PPE, tools and equipment
 - PPE may include: Gloves, wide brimmed hat, work boots
 - Safety equipment may include: Barricades and signage
 - Tools and equipment may include: Marking paint, rake, spade, stakes and ties, wheelbarrow
 - Ensure they are appropriately selected, prepared and used for the task following manufacturer's specifications

- To prepare for planting, be mindful of the following:
 - Remove competing plants and vegetation
 - However try to minimise the impact of planting activities on the surrounding environment as much as possible
 - Consider the needs of the plant:
 - Adjust the size of the planting hole accordingly
 - Carry out soil testing and modify soil according to the needs of the plant to be installed
 - Common nutrients to be applied include nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K)
 - Organic matter/humus can improve aeration and soil structure, provide nutrients and water
 - Soil amendments can improve moisture retention, drainage and pore spaces, provide nutrients

- To prepare for planting, be mindful of the following:
 - Ensure that seedling roots do not come in contact with ground affected by residual herbicides
 - The effects of climate
 - In tropical environments, plant trees and shrubs in Autumn
 - The soil has received maximum heat from the summer sun
 - This is after the summer rains

- When preparing trees and shrubs for planting, be mindful of the following:
 - Water trees and shrubs prior to planting
 - Verify that the root ball is damp
 - For bare-rooted plants: Soak roots in water, clean off unwanted spag moss/soil, dispose of any packaging
 - Report to the supervisor any root balls that are dry, water repellent and loose
 - Dry soil in the pot does not automatically mean that the plant needs watering

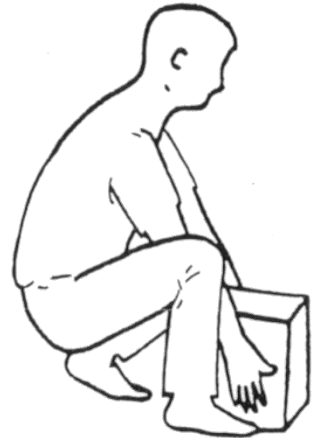
Osmosis is the movement of water through a selectively permeable membrane from low to high concentration.

- When preparing trees and shrubs for planting, be mindful of the following:
 - Take care when removing trees and shrubs from their containers
 - Difficult to remove plants should be not be used. An alternative plant should be sourced.
 - Some Australian native plants may die if you tease out or prune their roots.

- When preparing trees and shrubs for planting, be mindful of the following:
 - Report damage to supervisor:
 - Pest infestation may be indicated by:
 - Presence of insects/larvae
 - Signs of damage
 - Distressed plant appearance
 - Disease may be indicated by:
 - Presence of dark spots
 - Chlorosis
 - Distressed plant appearance

- Note the following when installing plants:
 - Water the hole prior to plant installation
 - After placing the plant in the hole, backfill with the removed soil
 - Soil does not need to be packed tightly
 - Air pockets are needed for the plant to grow
 - Apply mulch to a depth of 100-200mm
 - Use an organic mulch to:
 - Provide the plant with nutrients
 - Keep roots at a more even temperature and prevent soil from drying out too quickly
 - Limit the growth of weeds
 - Leave an area around the trunk to ensure adequate water to the feeding root zone

- During planting, you will be undertaking manual handling tasks
 - Be sure to follow appropriate procedures to avoid injury
- Ensure the following:
 - Neck is upright
 - Back has natural curve
 - Feet are flat and facing the load
 - Shoulders are level
 - Knees are bent
 - Hands have a good grip around the load



Completing planting tasks

- As part of completing planting tasks, you are required to complete the following practices:
 - Clean up the work area
 - Record and/or report planting activities to your supervisor
 - Maintain, clean and store tools and equipment according to manufacturer's specifications
 - Report faults that are discovered
 - Dispose of materials that cannot be reused or recycled
 - Ensure that you follow the organisation's requirements for handling and disposing of waste