

Assessment Guide

Domain Forestry > Forest Foundation Skills

Unit 22998 v4 Demonstrate knowledge of pruning plantation trees and prune plantation trees under supervision Level 2 Credits 10

Entry information

There are no pre-requisite requirements for this unit.

Candidate to complete

Name	Company
NSI No.	Email / phone

Pre-assessment confirmation

I, the **candidate**,

- Understand the assessment process and assessment requirements for this unit.
- Understand the appeals and resubmission processes.
- Believe I have the skills and knowledge to successfully complete the assessment.

Assessor to complete

Name	Company
Email / phone	

Pre-assessment confirmation

- I, the **assessor**, can confirm the candidate has achieved any pre-requisite requirements.

Assessment instructions






You will need to be able to show you can:

- Demonstrate knowledge of pruning plantation trees.
- Demonstrate knowledge of equipment used for pruning plantation trees.
- Demonstrate knowledge of pruning faults.
- Prune plantation trees under supervision.

Important information

- Carefully read through the rest of this Assessment so you know exactly what is expected.
- All evidence you provide for this assessment must be your own work.
- Clearly name and label all attached evidence.

What you need to do

	Question Set 1 – Pruning
	Question Set 2 – Equipment
	Question Set 3 – Hazards
	Observation Checklist Be observed pruning plantation trees. You will need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify specific tree characteristics.• Identify faults in a pruned stand.• Select and use PPE and pruning equipment.• Identify hazards.• Determine pruning height.• Open up the trees and carry out low and medium height pruning operations.• Tally and report pruned trees.
	Worksite Verification A worksite verifier must confirm your skills, knowledge and/or work.

You can also attach additional evidence which shows you have the required skills and knowledge, e.g. photos, worksite documents, checklists, work samples, videos.

Question Set 1 – Pruning

These questions are about pruning plantation trees.
Use your own words. Your assessor may ask you more questions to check your understanding.

1. Define the following pruning terms.

Term	Definition
Bark damage	
Branch stub	
Clear wood	
Coat hanger	
Crown depth	
Diameter over stubs (DOS)	

Form pruning	
Gauge	
Lift	
Regime	
Spacing	
Variable lift	

2. What is the main purpose of pruning and how does pruning affect the final crop?



3. Describe each tree characteristic.



Characteristic	Description
Branch collar	
Branch size and angle	
Crown shape and density	
Defect core	
Dominance	
Epicormic	
Internodal length	

Multi-leader	
Ramicorn	
Tree form	
Whorl	

4. Briefly describe each pruning lift.



Pruning lift	Description
Fixed height	
Variable height	
Ultra-high pruning	

5. Describe **two** factors that affect the timing of pruning.



6. Answer questions 6a – 6b about the impact of pruning on other operations.



a. How does first lift pruning affect other pruning lifts?

b. How does pruning affect thinning operations?

7. Describe the type of final crop desired for each pruning regime (objective).



Pruning regime	Type of final crop desired
Fixed height	
Variable height	

8. How can pruning faults affect final crop value?



9. Describe how each incorrect pruning result can affect the quality of the final crop. □

Incorrect pruning result	Effect on final crop quality
Collar damage	
Coat hangers	
Epicormic	

Assessor – record key points from candidate’s verbal answers as accurately and fully as possible.

These answers were written by:

Candidate

Assessor

Question Set 2 – Equipment

These questions are about equipment used for pruning plantation trees.

Use your own words. Your assessor may ask you more questions to check your understanding.

1. Name **five** items of equipment used for pruning. For each explain what it is used for.

Equipment	Use

2. Briefly describe how each factor can affect your choice of equipment.



Factor	Effect on equipment choice
Pruning lift	
Stand factors	

Assessor – record key points from candidate’s verbal answers as accurately and fully as possible.

These answers were written by:

Candidate

Assessor

Question Set 3 – Hazards

These questions are about pruning hazards and controlling associated risks.
Use your own words. Your assessor may ask you more questions to check your understanding.

1. Give **one** example for each type of hazard.
For each example, explain the risk and how you would control it.

Overhead hazard

Example

The risk

How I control it

Underfoot hazard

Example

The risk

How I control it

Weather

Example

The risk

How I control it

Other forest operations

Example

The risk

How I control it

Slash/logs on the ground

Example

The risk

How I control it

Working at heights

Example

The risk

How I control it

2. Why is it important for hazard identification and risk assessment to be an on-going process?



3. Explain how each factor can create a new hazard or make work more hazardous when pruning.



Weather

Terrain

Hindrance

Assessor – record key points from candidate’s verbal answers as accurately and fully as possible.

These answers were written by:

Candidate

Assessor



Observation Checklist 1

You must be observed pruning plantation trees.

You will need to:

- Complete Part A of the checklist. Your assessor will complete Part B.
- Identify specific tree characteristics.
- Identify faults in a pruned stand.
- Select and use PPE and pruning equipment.
- Identify hazards.
- Determine pruning height.
- Open up the trees and carry out low and medium height pruning operations.
- Tally and report pruned trees.
- Attach any other evidence that shows your ability to prune plantation trees such as photos or worksite documents you prepared or completed.

You may be asked additional questions to check your knowledge and may need to demonstrate skills and/or carry out tasks more than once.

Note to the assessor

- Only tick off each task when satisfied the candidate can do it safely and consistently.
- All tasks must be carried out following accepted industry practice and worksite procedures.
- Where prompted, please record details of what you observed, e.g. comments about the candidate's performance, what the candidate did or said, and specific questions and responses.
- Attach any other evidence that shows what you observed and/or that supports your decision for the candidate's competency in the tasks, e.g. photos or worksite documents.
- Check the candidate has completed Part A and has attached any required evidence.

Part A: Candidate to complete

Your name

Worksite / company

Stand / block ID

Part B: Assessor to complete

For each statement below, tick if you agree.

When preparing to prune plantation trees, the candidate:



1. Selects and uses appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Record the PPE the candidate uses. May include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves. | <input type="checkbox"/> Leggings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wet weather gear. | <input type="checkbox"/> High visibility clothing. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety boots. | <input type="checkbox"/> Hard hat. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harness. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please write): |

2. Selects and uses appropriate pruning equipment.

Record the pruning equipment the candidate uses. May include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loppers. | <input type="checkbox"/> Chains. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Epicormic tool. | <input type="checkbox"/> Jack saw. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Callipers and/or gauge. | <input type="checkbox"/> Steps. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ladder. | <input type="checkbox"/> Water supply. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Height pole. | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare parts. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please write): | |

3. Identifies hazards associated with pruning and effectively controls associated risks. **Six** hazards must be identified.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stand or block hazards. | <input type="checkbox"/> Working at heights. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use of tools. | <input type="checkbox"/> Slash. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other workers. | <input type="checkbox"/> Surrounding vegetation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Terrain. | <input type="checkbox"/> Ground conditions. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overhead hazards. | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather conditions. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please write): | |

Record how the candidate effectively controls risks associated with each hazard identified.

4. Identifies pruning faults in a pruned stand and explains how to prevent and/or rectify each pruning fault. May include:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collar damage. | <input type="checkbox"/> Coat hangers. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Epicormics. | <input type="checkbox"/> Height. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Over pruning. | <input type="checkbox"/> Under pruning. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bark damage. | <input type="checkbox"/> Branches remaining. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please write): | |

Record how the candidate would prevent and/or rectify each fault identified.

5. Determines pruning height. May include:



- Crown is visually measured.
- Calliper is used to determine pruned height.
- Reach of equipment is estimated.
- Other (please write):

6. Opens up tree for low pruning. Must include:



- Removing branches that block access.
- Pruning from bottom up.
- Circling the tree once.

7. Opens up tree for medium pruning. Must include:



- Checking for overhead hazards.
- Correct ladder placement.

8. Please comment on the candidate's ability to prepare for pruning.

When pruning plantation trees, the candidate:



9. Prunes tree using ergonomic techniques. May include:



- Correct body position.
- Correct ladder placement.
- Other (please write):

<p>10. Cuts branches flush with the branch collar. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>11. Removes epicormics safely and correctly. Must include: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Using correct tools. <input type="checkbox"/> Leaving no scarring. <input type="checkbox"/> Using correct techniques. <input type="checkbox"/> Using correct body position. <input type="checkbox"/> Double cut / scarf. <input type="checkbox"/> No draw wood.
<p>12. Removes large branches safely and correctly. Must include: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double cut. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scarf cut. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No tearing. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No draw wood.
<p>13. Tallies pruned trees correctly. <input type="checkbox"/> Record number tallied.</p>
<p>14. Reports pruned trees to supervisor. <input type="checkbox"/> Record name of supervisor.</p>
<p>15. Please comment on the candidate's ability to carry out low and medium pruning.</p>

Throughout the observation, the candidate:



16. Completes all the above tasks in accordance with:

- Worksite procedures.
- Job prescription requirements.
- Machine and equipment manufacturer's requirements.
- Accepted industry practice.

Please provide specific comments on the candidate's ability to prune plantation trees under supervision.

I confirm that:

- I have observed the candidate carry out all the above tasks to the standard required.
- The candidate has demonstrated competency in pruning plantation trees under supervision.

Yes

No

**Assessor
name**

Signature

Date



Worksite Verification

Note to the worksite verifier

- The assessor **takes this form into account** when making their decision about the candidate's competency. It helps provide further evidence of the candidate's skills and knowledge beyond what the assessor can directly observe or where worksite requirements may vary.
- This form must be completed by someone who:
 - Has been approved by the assessor.
 - Has expertise in the assessed tasks (see Observation Checklist for details) Regularly supervises or manages the candidate in their worksite or operation.
- In-house and/or provider assessors are not required to complete this form but may ask another suitable verifier to complete it if further evidence of competency is required.

Worksite verifier to complete

I confirm that _____ :

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Has pruned plantation trees, including: | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrating knowledge of pruning faults.
<input type="checkbox"/> Pruning plantation trees under supervision. | |
| 2. | Can consistently and safely do the above to the standard of this operation. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. | Met worksite and operational requirements. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. | Completed any attached documentation to worksite / operational requirements. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please comment on the candidate's ability to prune plantation trees under supervision.

Verifier name and title		Signature	
Phone / email		Date	

Assessment result

Post-assessment feedback

Assessor judgement

I, the **assessor**, have reviewed the candidate's evidence for Unit Standard 22998 v4 and judge that it is sufficient and authentic.

I confirm the candidate can competently:

- Demonstrate knowledge of pruning plantation trees.
- Demonstrate knowledge of equipment used for pruning plantation trees.
- Demonstrate knowledge of pruning faults.
- Prune plantation trees under supervision.

Assessment result

I, the **assessor**, confirm the candidate has **achieved** this unit standard. **Stamp**

Signature

Date

Candidate response

I, the **candidate**: Agree with the assessment result. Wish to appeal.

Signature

Date