Frequently Asked Questions: VCE Agricultural and Horticultural Studies (2020–2025)

Where do I teach the cross-study specifications?

Cross-study specifications provide details of the concepts which underpin Units 1 to 4 of the study design. These concepts need to be taught across all the units as they provide students with the methodology to achieve designed solutions. The cross-study specifications listed for VCE Agricultural and Horticultural Studies are:

* animal welfare
* applied practical learning
* health and safety
* innovation, technology and data
* issues in food and fibre production
* scientific methodology
* sustainability.

Further details about each cross-study specification can be found on pages 8–9 of the study design.

What types of practical tasks are suitable for teaching content?

The integration of applied, experiential tasks is integral to VCE Agricultural and Horticultural Studies. The way these tasks are incorporated is contingent on school settings, resources and capabilities. Practical tasks may include:

* management of plants and/or animals
* field trips with participatory experiences
* scientific trials and experiments (field-based or in a laboratory)
* data collection, analysis and application
* business or entrepreneurial practices including value-adding activities
* investigation of best-practice case studies
* virtual reality experiences.

Teachers need to take into consideration student interests and preferences, and the focus of the aspect of food and fibre production being studied.

Growing flowers can be included as a type of practical task related to food and fibre production.

What pests, diseases and weeds need to be studied?

The VCE Agricultural and Horticultural Studies Study Design (2020–2025) includes the specific pests, diseases and weeds to be studied. From 2020, there will no longer be a prescribed list. The students study specific pests, diseases and weeds in Unit 3 Area of Study 2.

Do I need to teach integrated disease management?

No. Knowledge about integrated disease management is no longer a part of the 2020–2025 study design. However, students do need to have an understanding of integrated pest and weed management in Unit 3 Area of Study 2.

What time period can new and emerging technologies be drawn from?

In Unit 3 Outcome 1, students study the impact of new and emerging innovations in Australia’s food and fibre industries over the past six years. Students describe the impacts of these new and emerging innovations and evaluate their potential value to the food and fibre industries.