



AGRI12002 Weeds, Pests and Plant Diseases

Term 2 - 2021

Profile information current as at 01/05/2024 11:59 am

All details in this unit profile for AGRI12002 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

Sustainable management of pest animals, plant diseases and weeds is paramount to successful agricultural systems. This unit introduces you to the principles of crop protection and the relevant foundation disciplines weed science, plant pathology (the science of plant diseases) and agricultural entomology (insect science). You will learn key aspects of biology and identification of weeds, pests and plant diseases. You will be introduced to ecological principles of their interactions with crops and cropping systems. Guided by this fundamental knowledge you will understand, plan and evaluate protection strategies for a range of crop production systems.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 2*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 7

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Prerequisite AGRI11002 Crop Management Systems

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 2 - 2021

- Bundaberg
- Emerald
- Online
- Rockhampton

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Residential Schools

This unit has a Compulsory Residential School for distance mode students and the details are:

Click here to see your [Residential School Timetable](#).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

[Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

[Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Online Quiz(zes)**

Weighting: 40%

2. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

3. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from "Have your say" feedback

Feedback

The "scientific and knowledge aspects of the unit" and the "super interesting and informative" topics were pointed out as among the best aspects of this unit.

Recommendation

The feedback shows that students appreciate even more challenging scientific concepts, and confirms this lecturer's approach to build industry-relevant knowledge upon a firm scientific foundation.

Feedback from "Have your say" feedback

Feedback

One suggestion for improvement was for more smaller assessments instead of the very large 2nd assessment.

Recommendation

From the lecturer's point of view I agree with this. As a 'consultancy report' on a real-world case study the 2nd assessment was authentic and asked students to integrate and apply the knowledge acquired all through the unit. Unfortunately it was therefore (1) rather large, (2) only feasible as a final assessment (which limits feedback opportunities and adds to the usual end of term assessment load) and (3) did not explicitly encourage earlier engagement with the unit. Assessments should therefore be redesigned to be spread out more evenly during the unit.

Feedback from "Have your say" feedback

Feedback

Physical examination of weeds, pests and diseases would be very insightful.

Recommendation

This was already brought up last year and resulted in the recommendation to add a practical component in form of a residential school with laboratory and excursion components. The recommendation was not implemented this year due to COVID restrictions, but should be considered in a renewed unit.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Identify major agricultural pests, weeds and plant diseases and explain their fundamental biology and ecology with particular emphasis on their effects on crops.
2. Apply your knowledge of weeds, pests and diseases to develop and evaluate crop protection strategies.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes	
	1	2
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 40%	•	•

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes	
	1	2
2 - Written Assessment - 30%	•	
3 - Written Assessment - 30%		•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes	
	1	2
1 - Communication	•	•
2 - Problem Solving	•	
3 - Critical Thinking		•
4 - Information Literacy	•	•
5 - Team Work	•	
6 - Information Technology Competence	•	•
7 - Cross Cultural Competence		
8 - Ethical practice	•	•
9 - Social Innovation		
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures		

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 40%	•	•	•	•						
2 - Written Assessment - 30%	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		
3 - Written Assessment - 30%	•	•	•	•		•		•		

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

There are no required textbooks.

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- Zoom Capacity (microphone required, webcam preferred if possible)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Michael Tausz Unit Coordinator
m.tausz@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 12 Jul 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Introduction	Background reading will be set through the Moodle site.	

Week 2 - 19 Jul 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Fundamentals of weed science 1		

Week 3 - 26 Jul 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Fundamentals of weed science 2		

Week 4 - 02 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Animal pests 1 - Introduction to agricultural entomology (insect science)		Quiz 1 due online midday, Friday, 6 August.

Week 5 - 09 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Animal pests 2 - including non-insect pest animals		

Vacation Week - 16 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
--------------	---------	------------------------------

Week 6 - 23 Aug 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Plant pathology 1		Quiz 2 due online midday, Friday, 27 August.
Week 7 - 30 Aug 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Plant pathology 2		
Week 8 - 06 Sep 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Residential School		Residential School (Rockhampton); Quiz 3 due in person during the residential school. Residential school activities Friday and Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm.
Week 9 - 13 Sep 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Weed control and management		
Week 10 - 20 Sep 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Pest control and management		Fact sheets Due: Week 10 Friday (24 Sept 2021) 11:45 pm AEST
Week 11 - 27 Sep 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Plant disease control and management		
Week 12 - 04 Oct 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Integration and Revision		Quiz 4 due online midday, Friday, 8 October.
Review/Exam Week - 11 Oct 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Exam Week - 18 Oct 2021		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
		Advisor's report Due: Exam Week Friday (22 Oct 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

Assessment Tasks

1 Assessment 1: Series of 4 online quizzes

Assessment Type

Online Quiz(zes)

Task Description

Answer questions to test your knowledge of the foundation material you learned in lectures and tutorials. You can undertake the quiz within the time period specified (term week), but you have only one attempt. Note that once you start an attempt you have to complete it in the allocated time. Make sure you are ready, have stable internet connection and are free from distractions during this period.

Number of Quizzes

4

Frequency of Quizzes

Other

Assessment Due Date

Quiz due dates are: Friday Week 4, Friday Week 6, Friday Week 8 (at Residential School) and Friday Week 12.

Return Date to Students

5 working days after the due date

Weighting

40%

Minimum mark or grade

50% across the total of all four quizzes

Assessment Criteria

Quiz questions about material delivered in lectures and tutorials must be answered correctly.

Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Quiz will be accessible one week prior to the due date. Once you open the quiz, you must complete it within the given time limit. You will have only one attempt per quiz.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Identify major agricultural pests, weeds and plant diseases and explain their fundamental biology and ecology with particular emphasis on their effects on crops.
- Apply your knowledge of weeds, pests and diseases to develop and evaluate crop protection strategies.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy

2 Fact sheets

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

You will be supplied with relevant information and material on (i) one weed and (ii) one pest animal or plant disease. Your first task is to identify the supplied materials using a variety of sources, and briefly document how you arrived at that decision (identification). The identification task will be completed at the residential school. For the second part of this assignment, you are asked to put yourself in the position of a land management officer responsible for issuing fact sheets to provide land and farm managers with relevant information. The fact sheets will be on the specimens you have identified in the first task (a total of 2 fact sheets). Fact sheets must be concise and clear, contain relevant and correct information, and include a list of authoritative resources used to compile the information. The fact sheet should have clear and easily readable layout and style, contain at least one image per fact sheet, and all content must be accommodated into one-A4 page. The overall word limit, including titles, references, figure legends etc. for each fact sheet is 350 words (700 words for both fact sheets). Further information will be made available on the Unit's Moodle site, and this will also be discussed at the residential school.

Assessment Due Date

Week 10 Friday (24 Sept 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

5 working days after the due date

Weighting

30%

Minimum mark or grade

50%

Assessment Criteria

Marks are awarded for:

1. Correct identification of the specimen (10%)
2. Relevant and accurate information in the fact sheets (40%)
3. Professional format and presentation of the fact sheets (30%)
4. Appropriate sources correctly referenced (20%)

Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Identify major agricultural pests, weeds and plant diseases and explain their fundamental biology and ecology with particular emphasis on their effects on crops.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Team Work
- Information Technology Competence
- Ethical practice

3 Advisor's report

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

In this assessment you will be asked to assume the role of a farm advisor (agronomist, crop protection consultant or similar). You will be given a farm case study scenario with a specific weed, pest or disease problem. You will be asked to analyse and explain the problem and suggest management solutions in a written report to the farm manager. The word limit is 2000 words.

Assessment Due Date

Exam Week Friday (22 Oct 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

10 working days after the due date

Weighting

30%

Minimum mark or grade

50%

Assessment Criteria

Marks are awarded for

1. Relevant and accurate background information provided (40%)
2. Rationale for the suggested management directions and clarity of suggestions (20%)
3. Professional impression including the clarity of English expression, spelling, grammar, consistent and attractive formatting incl. good use of figures and tables, and appropriate length (20%)
4. Appropriate sources and correct referencing (20%)

Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Apply your knowledge of weeds, pests and diseases to develop and evaluate crop protection strategies.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence
- Ethical practice

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?

**Be Honest**

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own

**Seek Help**

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)

**Produce Original Work**

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem