

## Fertcare Accredited Advisor

The Fertcare Accredited Advisor program has two parts. The first is an assessment of competency in making recommendations based on soil and plant testing. The second is a biennial audit of recommendations made. The first audit will take place two years after the assessment of competency.

Both processes assess recommendations and background evidence against a set of Fertcare standards. The main difference is:

- the applicant submits **their choice** of recommendations for assessment of competency to show that they **can** meet the standards; whilst
- the audit is conducted on randomly selected recommendations to check that the competency is being **routinely applied**.

## Systems and individuals

Individuals can apply to become a Fertcare Accredited Advisor once they are confident they have the required competence and have completed Fertcare Level C training.

Nutrient advice systems can also be assessed and provided that they have sufficiently robust training, procedures and record keeping and can demonstrate that they meet the competencies then the system is accredited. Anyone operating under an accredited system, that has completed Fertcare Level C training, is then automatically accepted as meeting the requirements to become a Fertcare Accredited Advisor.

## Standards and improvement

Fertcare standards have been developed under the guidance of the Australasian Soil and Plant Analysis Council (ASPAC) to cover the areas of:

- Sampling methodology;
- Laboratory performance (selection of appropriate laboratories);
- Interpretive data;
- Recommendation development and completeness; and
- Monitoring.

If an applicant does not meet the standards in any area the assessor will provide advice on how to improve and will then reassess. The object of the program is to help you reach the competency standard required.

The program is based on accepted science in Australia and applicants must provide details of the basis for their recommendations including the data on which the nutrient rates are based.

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## Licence and logos

Once you, or the system you are part of, has been assessed as competent you are entitled to call yourself a Fertcare Accredited Advisor and use the Advisor Logo providing you, or the business you are employed by, has a current license agreement. The licence agreement sets out how the various Fertcare logos can be used and the Fertcare Style Guide gives details about correct colours and usage.



## Competency and transferability

**Individuals** who are assessed as competent will receive a Fertcare Certificate that includes the attainment of a number of national competencies. This qualification is transferrable should you change employer.

If you become an Accredited Advisor under a **system** you will receive a Fertcare Certificate, but it will not include attainment of the national competencies. If you move to another employer you would need to either be approved by another complying system or undertake an individual assessment to remain a Fertcare Accredited Advisor.

Someone operating under an approved system may also apply for individual assessment if they wish to gain the transferrable statement of competencies.

## Fertcare Training and the Fertcare Accredited Advisor Program

The Fertcare Accredited Advisor program is separate to the training program that includes the Level A, B and C training courses. All eligible staff must complete training at the appropriate level in order for organisations to attain a license to use the Fertcare logos.

It is **not** a requirement that those completing Level C training go on to become Fertcare Accredited Advisors, however satisfactory completion of Level C is a prerequisite for those who wish to.

## More Information and How to Apply

Information on all aspects of the Fertcare Program is available from the Fertcare web site, including the detailed program manual for the Fertcare Accredited Advisor Program. The web site also has up to date information on approved assessors and auditors along with their contact details.

Your first step should be to check whether your nutrient advice system is or will become an accredited system, in which case you don't need to do anything further. If you do require an individual assessment then contact one of the approved assessors listed on the web site.

The Fertcare web site is at [www.fertcare.com.au](http://www.fertcare.com.au)

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