

VISA PAK ISSUE 394 — 22 MARCH 2019

DISTINGUISHING NURSERY WORK FROM HORTICULTURE/VITICULTURE WORK

This Visa Pak item is relevant to Essential Skills, Working Holiday, or Variation of Conditions (VOC) applications.

The Working Holidaymaker Extension (WH2) allows for the grant of a further three month work visa to people who have been employed to undertake seasonal work in the horticulture or viticulture industry for a cumulative period of at least three months while holding a work visa granted under a Working Holiday Scheme.

For the purposes of these instructions '*seasonal work in the horticulture or viticulture industry*' means *planting, maintaining, harvesting, and packing crops* in the horticulture or viticulture industry. Applicants may only apply for an extension one time while onshore. This work cannot include nursery work such as the propagation or cultivation of trees, shrubs, ornamental and flower plants in a plant nursery. Any roles involving processing or manufacturing of food stuffs such as chopping, freezing, or modifying fruit/vegetables for packaging also do not qualify for an extension of a Holiday Working visa.

Essential Skills applications which fall under WK2.5b related to planting, maintaining, harvesting or packing crops in the horticulture or viticulture industries must be declined; but the role of 'nursery person' may qualify. Nursery work are roles that involve bulbs, flowers, ornamental trees, and production for garden centres of shrubs, etc and may include grafting, bulb processing, or seed production for wholesale/retail instead of for fruit/vegetable propagation. Please refer to Visa Pak 257 for specific advice on "*nursery person*." Generally, anything that involves growing food does not qualify for an Essential Skills visa.

Immigration New Zealand may approve a VOC for holders of visitor visas for a maximum duration of six weeks to undertake seasonal work in any region where MSD has declared a seasonal labour shortage.