# SSERC logo

**SSERC Risk Assessment** (revised version March 2018)

(based on HSE’s INDG 163 ‘Risk assessment - A brief guide to controlling risks in the workplace’)

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| Activity assessed | Rhubarb, Rhubarb |
| *Date of assessment* | 30th June 2020 |
| *Date of review (****Step 5****)* |  |
| *School* |  |
| *Department* |  |

| Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 | Step 4 | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *List Significant hazards here:* | *Who might be harmed and how?* | *What are you already doing?*  *What further action is needed?* | *Actions* | | | | |
| *by whom?* | | *Due date* | | *Done* |
| Concentrated sulphuric acid is corrosive  The 2 mol l-1 solution is also corrosive. | Technician and teacher by splashes | Wear goggles (EN 1663) and gloves |  |  | |  | |
| Potassium permanganate is harmful if swallowed and a powerful oxidizing agent | Technician and teacher by inhalation and splashes | Avoid raising dust.  Wear gloves to avoid staining hands.  Keep away from combustible materials |  |  | |  | |
| Acidified potassium manganate VII solution is corrosive | Demonstrator and audience by splashing | Wear goggles (EN 1663) |  |  | |  | |

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| **Description of activity:**  Acidified permanganate solution is stirred with a stick of rhubarb. The oxalic acid in the rhubarb decolourises the permanganate and the solution goes clear.  This can be extended to an investigation using pieces of rhubarb or a solution made from boiled up rhubarb – the hazards are the same. |
| **Additional comments:**  Be careful over choice of household substances. Some such as oven cleaners or bleach, are hazardous. |