



Career Program Area: Turfgrass Management Specialist

Specific Rules

1. Each team consists of two members. The participants will compete both individually and as a team.
2. In the event of a tie for individuals, three preselected questions from the written exam will be asked and continue in the same sequence until a winner emerges. For teams the first criteria will be the highest team score and if still tied, the second criteria will be the same three preselected questions used to break individual ties as above.
3. Participants need to provide their own calculator and 2 No. 2 pencils and erasers. Participants need to come prepared with visual aid materials such as poster boards and markers. Laptop computers may be used for the Team presentation, however, they will not be provided.

Procedures

- **PART I:** General Knowledge Examination – 100 points. This 50 question multiple-choice exam will test the participants' knowledge and understanding of basic turfgrass principles, including but not limited to; turfgrass morphology, establishment, maintenance, pest management/control, and plant physiology. Each question has a value of two points. Participants will be allowed one hour to complete the exam.
- **PART II:** Identification of Plant Materials – 100 points. Fifty (50) specimens from the Turfgrass Grasses & Weeds List will be displayed for participants to identify by scientific name. Participants will be given a multiple choice answer sheet containing four to six possible scientific names for each specimen. Each specimen will be worth two points. Specimens will be in the form of slides, photographs, live or preserved samples. Participants will be allowed 50 minutes to complete the exam.
- **PART III:** Identification and Correction of Pest and Plant Problems. - 100 points. Pest and plant problem items may be presented as intact specimens, photos, preserved specimens or in slide form. There will be a series of multiple-choice questions to answer for each pest and its problem. A total of 10 pest questions each worth 10 points will be given. Pest and plant problems can include, but are not limited to insects, fungi, bacteria, viruses, weeds, nutrient deficiencies, growth issues, pesticide damage, and faulty cultural practices. Participants will be allowed 25 minutes to complete this phase.

- **PART IV:** Turfgrass Management Problem – 150 points. This practicum is designed to evaluate knowledge of and ability in 1) Calculating application rates of fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation, and, 2) evaluate environmental and cultural factors that affect the maintenance, profitability and/or play of turfgrass areas. Yearly or seasonal maintenance schedules for either lawn, sports field or golf course areas may be evaluated for the given problem. Participants will need to bring their own calculator and pencils. There will be 15 questions in this phase and participants will be given 60 minutes to complete
- **PART V:** Team Case Study and Presentation – 150 points. Each team will be given the same case study. The problem will be of current interest in the turfgrass industry. The Case Study will be shared at the Orientation Meeting. The team members will develop a written solution and present it to the judges. The presentation is not to exceed five minutes. The judges will have an additional five minutes to ask the team questions and five minutes to confer and calculate points. Participants need to come prepared with visual aid materials such as poster boards and markers. These materials will not be provided. If the team wishes to use a laptop computer, it may do so, but, the team will need to provide their own computer.

Performance Evaluation

Each participant will be evaluated in each of the following activity areas:

Individual

- Written examination – 100 points
- Identification of Plant Material – 100 points
- Identification and Correction of Pests and Diseases – 100 points
- Turf Grass Management Problem - 150 points
- **TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE – 450 POINTS**

Team

- Team case study presentation – 150 points
- Average of individual scores – 450 points
- **TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE – 600 POINTS**

*Team score will be determined by an average of each of the two members' scores, plus the team case study score.