



Career Program Area: Ornamental Horticulture Specialist Floriculture

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. Check the specific activities for other equipment and supplies that will be allowed but are not required.

Procedures

The objective is to evaluate the proficiency level of Ornamental Horticulture Specialists in the areas of floriculture in the following ways:

1. General Knowledge Examination – 100 points
 - a. This 50 question multiple-choice exam will test the participants' knowledge and understanding of basic horticultural principals in producing, marketing, using and maintaining floriculture crops. Each question has a value of two points. Participants will be allowed 55 minutes to complete the exam.
2. Identification of Plant Materials – 100 points
 - a. 50 specimens from the floriculture list will be displayed for participants to identify by scientific name. Participants will be given a multiple choice answer sheet containing six possible scientific names for each specimen. Each specimen will be worth two points. Specimens will be in the form of slides or photographs. Participants will be allowed 40 minutes to complete the exam.
3. Identification and Correction of Pests and Plant Problems – 100 points
 - a. Pest and plant problem items may be presented as intact specimens, photos, in preserved specimens or in slide form. There will be a series of multiple-choice questions to answer at each station. A total of ten questions each worth ten points will be given. Pests and plant problems can include, but are not limited to insects, fungi, bacteria, virus, weeds, nutrient deficiencies or toxicities, pesticide damage and faulty growing procedures. Participants will be allowed 25 minutes to complete this phase.

4. Greenhouse Growing Problem – 150 points
 - a. This practicum is designed to evaluate knowledge of and ability in:
 - i. Calculate the cost of materials and supplies needed to produce a greenhouse crop.
 - ii. Evaluate factors that affect the profitability of a greenhouse business. A one year crop schedule, including at least five crops; a current greenhouse supply catalog and a plant price list will be included.
 - iii. Participants will need to bring their own calculator and pencils.
 - iv. There will be 15 objective questions about the plan.
 - v. Participants will be given 55 minutes to complete this phase.

5. Team Case Study and Presentation – 150 points
 - a. Each team will be given the same case study. The problem will be of current interest in the floriculture industry. **This will be shared at the orientation.**
 - i. The team members will have 30 minutes to develop a written solution and present it to the judge. The presentation is not to exceed 5 minutes.
 - ii. The judge will have an additional 5 minutes to ask the team questions.
 - iii. Participants need to come prepared with visual aid materials such as poster board and markers. These materials will not be provided. If the team wishes to use a laptop computer, it may do so. The team will need to provide a computer on their own.

Program Evaluation

Individual Scoring

- Written General Knowledge Exam – 100 points
- Identification of Plant Material – 100 points
- Identification and Correction of Pests and Diseases – 100 points
- Greenhouse Growing Problem – 150 points
- **Total Points Possible – 450 points**

Team Scoring

- Team Case Study Presentation – 150 points
- Average of individual scores – 450 points
- **Total Points Possible – 600 points**