



Career Program Area: Ornamental Horticulture Specialist Landscape Design & Nursery Development

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 Landscape Design/Nursery Development 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 nursery plants & turf. Each question has a value of two points. Participants will be allowed 40 minutes to complete the exam.
2. Identification of Plant Materials – 100 points
 - a. 50 specimens from the landscape design/nursery development list will be displayed for participants to identify by scientific name. Participants will be given a multiple choice answer sheet worth containing six possible scientific names for each specimen. Each specimen will be worthy two points. Specimens will be in the form of slides or photographs. Participants will be allowed 55 minutes to complete the exam.
3. Identification and Correction of Pests and Plant Problems – 100 points
 - a. Pests and plant problems may be presented as intact specimens, photos, preserved specimens or slides. There will be multiple-choice questions to answer for each problem. A total of 10 each worth 10 points will be given. Pests and plant problems can include, but are not limited to insects, fungi, bacteria, virus, weeds, nutrient deficiencies, growing procedures, pesticide damage, and faulty cultural practices. Participants will be allowed 25 minutes to complete this phase.
4. Landscape Drawing – 150 points
 - a. This practicum is designed to evaluate knowledge of and ability in:
 - i. Reading a landscape drawing

- ii. Measuring and calculating materials needed to execute a landscape plan
 - iii. Evaluating factors that affect profitability of a landscape business.
 - iv. A landscape drawing and scratch paper will be provided. There will be 15 objective questions about the plan. Participants will be given 60 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 landscape/nursery industry. **This will be shared at orientation.**
 - i. The team members will 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 their own computer.

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
- Individual Landscape Drawing – 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**

*Team score will be determined by an average of each of the two members' scores, plus the team case study score. An individual competing alone will not qualify for team awards.