

Nursery/Landscape CDE

(February, 2025)

PURPOSE

The Nursery/Landscape Contest includes all aspects of the industry in producing, marketing, utilizing, and maintaining landscape plants (woody and herbaceous plants and turfgrasses), plus related products, equipment, and services including landscape design.

ELIGIBILITY

The participant must be an active member of a chartered West Virginia FFA Chapter and enrolled in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12. Each chapter may enter one team.

EVENT PROCEDURE

The event will be a team event consisting of four students. A team may compete with less than 4 members, but will not be eligible for team events. FFA members will wear official dress or professional dress as it pertains to the profession. For example, Black pants white shirt or button up shirt.

Teams and/or schools or coaches will not visit the WVU greenhouses after September 1.

No FFA advisors/coaches will be allowed in the area of the contest, but arrangements will be made to view the specimens following the contest.

PRACTICUMS

A general knowledge exam, ID of Plant Materials, Equipment, and Supplies, Landscape Estimating, Assessments and Solutions

EVENT MATERIALS

MATERIALS STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE

- Pencils
- Clipboards
- Electronic Calculator

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICUMS

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE EXAMINATION

Fifty (50) question objective multiple-choice exam will be prepared on topics reflecting subject areas in the contest objectives. This contest phase will evaluate the contestant's knowledge and understanding of basic horticultural principles in producing, marketing, using, and maintaining nursery plants and turf. Contestants are allowed 50 minutes to complete this phase. Each correct answer is worth three (3) points, examination items will be developed from information found in the references and past National FFA Tests from the past 5 years.

EVALUATION PRACTICUM

IDENTIFICATION OF PLANT MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES

Participants will identify 50 items selected from the provided list covering the following categories: • Plant Materials (25 items) • Pests and Disorders (10 items) • Equipment and Supplies (15 items) Plants to identify will be presented as intact, live specimens. Equipment may be either an intact item or photograph. Pest and disorder items may be presented as an intact specimen, photograph, or preserved specimen (herbarium sheet, insect mount, etc.). When a problem must be presented with an affected plant, a "Disorder" label will be with the item to designate identification of the problem rather than the plant. Each specimen will be designated by a station number (1- 50). When the participant identifies the item, its name is then located on the identification list. The participant then records the number by that name on Scanning Sheet at the respective station number. Each participant will be provided a copy of the list at the event site. Three points will be awarded for each correct identification, and participants have 50 minutes to complete this event phase. No specimens or items may be touched or handled in any way.

LANDSCAPE ESTIMATING

This practicum section is designed to evaluate contestant knowledge of and ability in 1) evaluating a landscape design, 2) reading a landscape drawing, 3) measuring and calculating materials needed to execute a landscape plan, and 4) evaluating factors that affect profitability of a landscape business. A landscape drawing and scratch paper will be provided to the contestants. There will be objective questions about the landscape plan. Participants will record their answers using a scan form. Thirty (30) minutes will be allowed for this practicum. Each correct answer is worth 5 points each. Past national contests will be used to provide examples for the event. Landscape estimating drawings and questions will come from the past 5 years of the National Nursery Landscape CDE Tests.

Propagating Nursery Stock: Each participant will be furnished with a stock plant or stock plant material, rooting flat and media, rooting hormone, a hand pruner, a label and marking pen. Personal propagating knives or pruners are allowed, if desired. Participants are to prepare the cuttings and place them in the media with a single label.

Potting Nursery Stock: Each participant will be furnished with a supply of plants, nursery containers of appropriate size and growing media. Hand pruners, a label and a marking pen will also be provided. Personal pruners are allowed, if desired. The participants will pot the plants, one per container, using standard nursery practices. Plant division or grading of liners may be involved. One finished container will be labeled.

Practicum	Activity	Individual	Team
General Knowledge	Written Exam	150	600
Identification	Evaluation	150	600
Landscape Estimating	Evaluation	100	400
Propagating Nursery Stock	Evaluation	50	200
Planting Nursery Stock	Evaluation	50	200
TOTAL		500	2000

TIE BREAKERS

In the event of a tie in individual scores, the following events will be used in order to determine award recipients:

Individual Tie Breaker: 1) Landscape Estimation, 2) Identification, 3) Written Exam

Team Tie Breaker: Total Team Score on each of the following, 1) Landscape Estimation, 2) Identification, 3) Written Exam