

NACTA 2012

Horticulture Judging Contest Rules

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Contest Components:

- A. Technical Knowledge Exam – 100 points
- B. Plant Identification – 200 points
- C. Horticultural Tool, Equipment, and Supply Identification – 50 points
- D. Placing Classes – 50 points

RULES

1. There will be a 2-year and a 4-year division. All contest rules and components will be the same for both divisions.
2. Each school may enter up to eight competitors. All competitors must participate in all four components of the horticulture contest. The top three student scores from each school will be used to determine team awards. All competitors are eligible for individual awards.
3. Contestants are only eligible to compete in one division (2-year or 4-year).
4. Awards will be given for team scores and individual scores in each category of the contest as well as for total overall team and individual scores.
5. Contestants must bring a #2 lead pencil, and may want to bring an engineer scale as well as a calculator. Calculators on cell phones will not be allowed. All other materials required will be provided. No notes, reference materials, etc. will be allowed.
6. No cell phones, pagers, or other electronic devices will be allowed. No conferring during the contest will be allowed. Contestants observed in violation will be eliminated from the competition.
7. In the event of a tie, a horticultural spelling bee will be used to determine the winner. Participants will spell selected scientific names of plants. For ties between schools, each school will choose one member to participate.

CONTEST

A. Technical Knowledge Exam – 100 points

The technical knowledge exam will be a multiple choice and true/false exam consisting of 100 questions worth 1 point each. Contestants will be allowed 50 minutes to complete the exam. Questions will come from the following areas of horticulture:

- General botany/plant science
- Greenhouse production and management
- Nursery production and management
- Landscape design, contracting, construction, and management
- Turfgrass management
- Floral design

B. Plant Identification – 200 points

The plant identification section will have 50 items worth four points each. One point will be awarded for correctly naming the genus; one point will be awarded for correctly naming the specific epithet, one point will be awarded for providing the correct common name, and one point will be awarded for spelling. Contestants will be allowed 100 minutes for this phase of the contest.

Identification items may include, but are not limited to the following:

Woody, herbaceous, and tropical plants used in various nursery and indoor and outdoor landscape situations. Specimens will be displayed as whole plants, cuttings, or parts of plants (cones, fruit, seedpods, etc.) as they appear outside or in a garden center at contest time, or as grown in a greenhouse.

Turf grasses as they appear outside at contest time or as grown in a greenhouse.

Weeds, plant pests, or disorders commonly found in the horticulture industry.

Cut flowers and foliages commonly used in floral design.

C. Horticultural Tool, Equipment, and Supply Identification – 50 points

The horticultural supply identification section will have 50 items worth one point each. Contestants will be allowed 50 minutes for this phase of the contest.

Identification items may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Greenhouse and interior plantscaping tools, equipment, and supplies
- Nursery and garden center tools, equipment, and supplies
- Landscape design, construction, and maintenance tools, equipment, and supplies
- Turfgrass production and maintenance tools, equipment, and supplies
- Floral design tools, equipment, and supplies

D. Placing Classes – 50 points

Ten placing classes will be presented. Contestants will place each class in their order of preference according to established horticultural hallmarks of quality. Each class will be worth a total of 5 points. Contestants will be allowed 5 minutes to evaluate and rank each class.

Four specimens will be presented for each class. Placing classes will include:

- Nursery plants
- Potted indoor plants
- Exterior hardscapes
- Turf plots
- Flower arrangements
- Cut flowers