



2015-2016 HORTICULTURE CONTEST LEADER'S GUIDE

The Horticulture Judging and Identification Contest is a great way to introduce youth to the world of plants. This contest is a training program concerned with teaching youth to recognize and identify some of the most important horticultural crops, to learn criteria influencing quality and to be able to answer questions and solve problems relating to the art and science of horticulture. There are four portions of the test, including knowledge, judging, identification and skill demonstration.

Knowledge

The knowledge section tests the youth's understanding of basic horticulture principles. Questions that form the knowledge test come from Horticulture Project Book series. The challenge level of the questions will be reflective of the age division. The beginner division will cover the first book, book A. The senior division will cover information from all three levels, Level A, B and C.

Junior Division (youth ages 9-11): 15 questions, true-false, multiple choice type

Senior Division (youth ages 12-19): 25 questions, true-false, multiple choice type

Project Books

Level A- See Them Sprout

Level B- Let's Get Growing

Level C- Take Your Pick

Level D- Growing Profits

Identification

The identification section will include samples will from each of the following groups

- Vegetables and Fruits/Nuts and Berries
- Annual and Perennial Flowers and Indoor Plants
- Landscape Plants and Trees
- Pests: Weeds 2015, Diseases 2016
- Equipment

During the contest, junior participants will be given a complete list of all items which could potentially appear. Senior participants will not be given a list. Specimens may be alive or preserved plant parts such as, but not limited to: stems, twigs, leaves, flowers, seeds, fruits, roots, bulbs, tubers, or plant products. Samples for each age division will also be reflective of their age ability.

Junior Division (youth ages 9-11): Identify 5 samples from each category for a total of 25 samples

Senior Division (youth ages 12-19): Identify 10 samples from each category for a total of 50 samples

Judging

Participants will judge two classes of vegetables and one class of flowers. Seniors will be expected to provide written reasons for one designated class. Plates in each class will be numbered and participants will be expected to judge the specimens and rank the plates from first to last. Oral reasons will not be required of contestants. Each class is worth 50 points and written reasons will be worth 50 points.

Skill Demonstration

2015: Transplant a Pansy from a cell pack to a small container (yearly for juniors, 2015 seniors)

2016: Take a cutting from a stock plant (2016 seniors only)

TRAINING

Training 4-H'ers to participate in Horticulture Judging should be fun for all, as well as educational.

Suggested training activities include:

1. Take field trips to supermarkets, roadside stands, garden centers, public gardens, or gardening events to study vegetable, flower, and landscape plant quality judging and identification. You can also identify horticultural tools and supplies.
2. Hold training sessions in neighborhood gardens. Use these sessions to teach identification of vegetables, flowers, landscape plants, and pests in a hands-on setting. You can also harvest vegetables and flowers and use them to teach and practice judging. Consider using a well-landscaped area to teach about landscaping principles. Also take this as an opportunity to practice horticultural skills.
3. Collect various flowers, vegetables, landscape plant, and pest samples or have members bring in specimens from home for a training session.
4. Collect garden catalogs and use the photographs to teach identification. Make use of reference books, extension materials, and trade publications as training materials.
5. Invite Master Gardeners, garden club members, or horticulture professionals to speak to 4-H'ers.
6. Involve older 4-H'ers and teens in assisting with training. They can bring items to meetings, assist in teaching, arrange tours and make phone calls.

Identification Study Lists:

Vegetables and Fruits/Nuts and Berries

Apple	Cantaloupe	Lettuce	Raspberry
Asparagus	Cauliflower	Okra	Rhubarb
Beets	Cherry	Peach	Strawberry
Blueberry	Eggplant	Pear	Turnips
Broccoli	Garlic	Radish	White Potatoes

Annual and Perennial Flowers and Indoor Plants

Begonia*	Impatiens ~	Snap Dragon~
Black Eyed Susan~	Marigold*	Verbena~
Dianthus*	Pansy~	Vinca
Geranium*	Petunia	Zinnia*

Landscape Plants and Trees

American Holly*	Elm	Oak, Pin
American Sycamore~	Fir~	Pine, White*
Bald Cypress	Leyland Cypress*	Poplar~
Cherry~	Magnolia~	Spruce (Blue)
Dogwood*	Maple, Red*	Willow

Weeds: 2015

Crabgrass *	Morning Glory *	Chickweed~
Foxtail *	Dandelion~	Velvet Leaf~
Lambsquarter*	Prickly Lettuce~	
Pigsweed*	Johnson Grass~	

Diseases: 2016

Early blight (tomatoes) *	Scab (apples)*	
Powdery mildew (flowers or vine crops)*	Brown rot (stone fruit)~	
Mosaic virus (vegetables or flowers)~	Smut (sweet corn)~	
Downy mildew (vine crops)~	White mold (beans)*	Bacterial wilt (wine crops)~
	Root knot nematode (potato or carrots)*	

Equipment:

Fertilizer~	Peat Moss~	Soil Sample Probe*
Fertilizer Spreader*	Potting Soil*	Pruning Saw~
Hand Pruners~	Rake (garden/leaf type)~	Watering Wand or can
Hand Trowel*	Sprayer*	

NOTE:

*Junior 2015

~ Junior 2016

Juniors will be provided the entire word bank listed here (without the yearly marks) Seniors will not be given a word bank.