

# Nursery/Landscape

Revised 01/29/2025

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## **PURPOSE**

To promote career interest, encourage proficiency development and recognize excellence in participants of the event which includes all aspects of industry to produce, market, utilize and maintain landscape plants, as well as related production and landscaping products, equipment and services including design.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- Nursery/Landscape Principles: Apply nursery and landscape principles and practices as they impact residential, commercial, public and recreational applications.
- Plant Materials: Demonstrate the ability to identify, select and utilize nursery and landscape plants (interior/exterior), landscape materials and turf grasses commonly used in the United States.
- Plant Disorders: Demonstrate the ability to identify unhealthy plant conditions due to pests, nutritional/physiological disorders and mechanical/chemical injury.
- Cultural Practices: Demonstrate knowledge of the principles and skills involved in propagation, growth requirements, growing techniques, harvesting, sustainability, marketing, and maintenance of interior and exterior landscape plants and turf grasses.
- Design and Construction: Demonstrate knowledge of the principles and techniques of landscape design, estimating and construction.
- Supplies and Equipment: Demonstrate the ability to identify, select, use and maintain appropriate supplies and equipment for nursery and landscape operations, including equipment and procedures in mechanization and automation.
- Safety: Demonstrate knowledge of safety practices in nursery and landscape operations.
- Interpersonal Relations: Demonstrate skills in oral and written business communications.
- Business Management: Demonstrate an understanding of marketing principles and business management as well as proper sales and service skills.
- Records and Reports: Demonstrate the ability to prepare estimates and complete financial statements.

## **Career Development Event Rules**

- 1 A team representing a chapter will consist of four members with the top 3 scores counting for the team score
- 2 Observers will not be permitted in the career development event while the event is in progress. Team coaches should make plans to be away from the event site during the event.
- 3 Participants will be assigned to groups for various event areas. Each participant is to stay with his or her group through the event or until told to change by the Career Development Event Officials.

- 4 Under no circumstances will any participant be allowed to touch or handle plant materials or other specimens during the event as specified in certain practicum's. Any infraction of this rule will be sufficient cause to eliminate the team from the event.
- 5 In addition to a clean clear plastic clipboard and at least two No. 2 pencils, each participant must also have a ball-point or felt tipped pen, Architect's scale and an Engineer's scale.
- 6 No electronic devices, headphones, earbuds, etc. may be used during the contest.
- 7 Calculators may be used only in the practicum of the event. Calculators will be provided by event officials before use. Printing or programmable calculators are not allowed.
- 8 The career development event includes the following seven phases:
  - General knowledge examination
  - Identification of plants, plant pests & disorders, equipment and supplies
  - Landscape Estimating
  - Written Customer Assistance
  - Nursery Production Practicum

## **Career Development Event Format**

### **Phase 1- General Knowledge Examination (100 points)**

Fifty objective multiple-choice questions each answer has a value of three points for a total of 150 possible points. Test questions will come from the past 3 years of material available from the National Nursery Landscape CDE materials available on [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)

<https://ffa.app.box.com/s/lolif2cubmhgmcg1xd0eitsr1xh3509s/folder/50553128347>

### **Phase 2 - Identification of Plant Pests, Disorders, Beneficial Insects, Equipment and Supplies (50 items total any combination of listed categories 150 points total )**

>Use current lists from National FFA Nursery Landscape CDE Handbook

>Specimens may be live, quality photos, plant parts or combinations thereof.

>Pests and disorders shall be presented as a damaged specimen, photograph, preserved specimen, herbarium sheet, insect mount, etc. A “disorder” label shall be used to designate the requested identification of a problem versus the plant that it appears on

>Beneficial insects and organisms are those which benefit the landscape by feeding on harmful organisms

>Equipment and supplies may be an intact item or quality photograph

>Each specimen shall be clearly numbered.

>Contestants shall be provided with a copy of all identification lists.

>No touching or handling of any specimens

### **Phase 3 - Landscape Estimating (100 points)**

A landscape drawing and scratch paper will be provided to the participants. Participants will be asked read, evaluate and answer 10 objective questions for a total of 100 possible points. Questions may require the participant to take measurements from the scale drawing, determine the materials or supplies need for a landscaping project, estimate a bid for maintenance costs, and evaluate factors that would affect the profitability of the project. Sixty minutes will be allowed for this practicum.

### **Phase 4- Written Customer Assistance (50 points) (Scored against the rubric and recorded by contest officials on the scantron)**

Participants will assume the role of a customer service employee and draft a response to a customer letter about a plant, landscape, or business issue. Participants will also be provided with information to include in their response. Each participant will handwrite in ink, using a business letter format a response to the customer. Scratch paper and an official letter head for the final draft will be provided. Only the copy written on the letterhead stationery will be scored.

### **Phase 5- Nursery Production Practicums (50 points)**

Students will complete one of the nursery production practices each year. Judges may ask the students clarifying questions for their work.

> A rotation will be used for the practicum

#### **2025 Potting Nursery Stock**

An event official will observe students while completing the task  
Scores will be based on official rubrics

**Potting Nursery Stock** - Each participant will be furnished a supply of rooted liners, nursery cans or pots of appropriate size and media. Hand pruners and a label will also be provided. (Personal pruners are allowed, if desired) The participant will pot liners, one plant per container, using standard nursery practices. One plant liner will be labeled. One minute will be provided for each participant to organize the work space as desired and prepare the label, and then five minutes will be allowed for potting up to ten liners. An event official will observe and score participant during this practicum.

**Propagating Nursery Stock-** Each participant will be furnished a stock plant, rooting flat with media, rooting powder, a and pruner or knife and a label and pencil. (Personal knives or pruners are allowed, if desired.) Participants are to prepare the designated softwood or hardwood cutting and place them in the media with a label. One minute will be provided for participants to organize their work space as desired, and then five minutes will be allowed for making and sticking 20 cuttings. An event official will observe and score each participant during this practicum. Scoring criteria are presented on the "Propagating Nursery Stock" score card.

## Scoring the Nursery Landscape Career Development Event

Individual participants scores will be the sum of the scores from the five phases of the event, based on

<u>Phase</u>	<u>Possible Points</u>
General Knowledge	150 points
Identification	150 points
Landscape Estimating	100 points
Written Customer Assistance	50 points
Nursery Production Practicums	50 points
<b>Individual Totals</b>	<b>500 points (max)</b>
<b>Team Total (top 3 individual scores)</b>	<b>1500 points (max)</b>

### Tiebreakers: