



FFA Nursery and Landscape CDE Event Information

Four 35-minute rotations. Events will be grouped appropriately to allow for enough time.

1-Written Exam (35 questions for High School & 20 questions for Middle School)

TIPS: Traditionally, students do quite well on the written exams. Each year we have a focus on several areas, so you know what material to teach from and how to prepare your students. Don't forget, there will general horticulture questions as well that the students should already know from being in your class.

This year's written exam will cover the following areas:

* Best Management Practices

http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/GIBMP_Manual_WEB_2_17_11.pdf

Reference material for the BMP portion of the written exams is the *Florida Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries*. December 2008. Florida Department of Environmental Protection Nonpoint Source Management Section, 850-245-7508.

- Study the Introduction Chapter, pages 1-5

* Plant Use

<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/materials/FYN-Handbook-v1-2012.pdf>

Reference material for the Plant Use portion of the written exams is the *Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook 2009*. Florida Yards & Neighborhoods, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), Environmental Horticulture Dept., P.O. Box 110675, Gainesville, FL 32611-0675, 352-392-1831, ext. 220.

- Study the Chapter on Right Plant, Right Place, pages 5-9.

* Business Issues

<http://www.fngla.org/certification/FCHP.asp>

Reference material for the business portion of the written exams is *FNGLA Certified Horticulture Professional Manual*, 8th Edition 2010. Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association, 1533 Park Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32835, 800-375-3642 or www.fngla.org.

- Go to above website and download Chapter 1 Business Issues and study pages 14-17.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

S-1. A recent piece of legislature passed in 1999 which sets maximum limits for certain nutrients and pollutants in Florida waters is called what?

- a. **The Clean Water Act**
- b. TMDL Bill
- c. Xeriscape Law
- d. Pesticide Safety Law

S-2. Over-irrigation results in:

- a. **Pollution**
- b. Water conservation
- c. Healthy plants
- d. Fewer pests

S-3. What is the definition of impervious?

- a. **Resistant to penetration by fluids**
- b. Solid in structure
- c. Has ability to absorb liquids
- d. Well-drained surface

S-4. According to Grades and Standards, what is the common specification on many landscape plans for plant quality?

- a. Cull plants
- b. Florida #2 or Better
- c. **Florida #1 or Better**
- d. Florida Fancy

S-5. Most plants grow best if the soil pH is?

- a. 4.5-5.5
- b. **5.5-6.5**
- c. 6.5-7.5
- d. 7.5-8.5

2-Problem Solving Practicums (the following 2 practicums will be part of the 2013 CDE – each normally has 15 – 25 questions per exam.)

** Equipment Maintenance*

Students will be provided with a user's manual for a common piece of equipment used in nurseries and/or landscapes. They will be asked questions on the safe and proper use and maintenance of that equipment. Questions could also pose scenarios where they would have to determine why the equipment is not working properly. Types of equipment could range from nursery tools to powered turf care equipment.

TIPS: Students should be familiar with where to find information in an owners' manual for equipment. Questions will measure how well the students are able to determine the correct information from the information provided.

** Handling a Hazardous Situation*

Students will answer multiple choice questions based on safety issues that could take place in a nursery and/or landscape setting.

TIPS: These practicums are designed to present real-life situations, whether heat-related illnesses, dealing with insects, or understanding first aid. The student must be familiar with how to read (and find information on) product labels or other guides. Prepare your students with the following resource:

- FNGLA Certified Horticulture Professional (FCHP) Manual 8th Edition 2010, Chapter VIII: Safety – study First Aid, page 4 & Outdoor Hazards, pages 11 – 13.

3-Live Practicums (the following 2 practicums will be part of the 2013 CDE.)

**Landscape Interpretations Practicum*

Students will be provided with a landscape plan, notes and plant list. They will then answer questions based on the plan. Questions could include cost of plants installed, type of mulch, number of trees, etc. Middle School students will be provided with a more simplified plan than High School students.

TIPS: Students will be presented with a professional plan provided by an FNGLA Certified Landscape Designer. This practicum will require students to be able to understand how to read a landscape plan and know what elements should be included, like a north arrow, scale, title block, etc. They will be asked different types of questions based on the plan, plant list and landscape notes. Many questions will require math, such as determining how much mulch or edging is required, or how many trees or shrubs of a certain variety have been included.

- Following is a powerpoint that covers how to read plans:

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/HLA/PLS451-2007/Lecture1-Plan%20Reading.pdf>

**Pruning Practicum*

This practicum takes the students outside, to actually evaluate trees. Students must identify the different parts of a tree and be able to recognize proper pruning techniques.

TIPS: The best way to prepare your students is to actually take them outside to look at trees and shrubs. The below references provide information:

- FNGLA Certified Horticulture Professional (FCHP) Manual 8th Edition 2010, Chapter VII pages 7-19. This information has been adapted from Dr. Gilman's website listed below.
- Dr. Ed Gilman from the University of Florida has a great website that covers all areas of pruning. Click on <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/pruning.shtml> and then search through his website. There are powerpoints, cue cards and all kinds of material useful for this practicum.

4-Plant, Pest & Tool ID (60 specimens – all teams)

This portion of the exam is based on the specimen list available at the Florida FFA website www.flaffa.org under Nursery & Landscape CDE. Remember, the exam will have:

30 plants

15 tools

15 pests (pest ID will focus on weeds and beneficial insects, but include others as well)

The specimen are arranged in a room on rows of tables with a number beside them. The student finds the name of the plant, pest or tool on their specimen list, then bubbles in the letter beside the name on their score card.

TIPS: Be aware that plants are alphabetized by botanical name, not common name. You really can only practice practice practice to prepare for this section.

For more information, contact Merry Mott at FNGLA at mmott@fn gla.org or 800-375-3642 or 407-295-7994.