

To: FFA Horticulture Team Coaches  
CC: Naomi Knight, Terrie Shank  
From: Susan Trice, Contest Superintendent  
Date: 1/26/18

**RE: 2018 State FFA Horticulture Career Development Event**

The 2018 Maryland State Horticulture Career Development Event will take place on April 7th at Westminster High School in Westminster, MD.

The event will consist of the four categories for identification. They are: Vegetables & Herbs; Fruits, Nuts & Berries; Landscape Ornamentals, and Flowers & Indoor Plants. We will have up to 25 specimens in each category. Please refer to the charts on the NJHA website (<http://tinyurl.com/nzn98g4>) for the parts of the plants that could possibly be used. For instance: A pine could be represented by foliage, seed or cone. I'll try not to make it difficult but since the scores are getting so close, I may include a few more challenging ones. We want to allow them much success but challenge them a bit at the same time. Also, when you open each category on the website, you can then click on each name of the plant to see pictures.

After the Spring Judging orientation session at 9:00 a.m., all horticulture judges will go to the upper level of the school to take the written test. The test questions will come from the chapters listed on the NJHA website. For your benefit, I am supplying a set of sample questions. Once the test portion is finished, we will go to the lower level and rotate from section to section to identify specimens and/or place items in the classes. Classes will consist of 4 similar items to be placed from best to worst for quality judging. For example, we may have a class of vegetables, fruits, flowers, or market packs.

Event Format:

Take written test: Members will have approximately 30 minutes to answer 50 multiple choice questions. Please make sure your members bring two sharpened #2 pencils.

After all tests have been collected, members will move as one unit to the lower level. They will be split into 5 groups once we get there.

Members will rotate from one group to the next as is guided by the leader(s) of their group. Each group will have up to 30 minutes to identify the specimens in that group. If all groups are finished, we will rotate earlier.

Group: Vegetables, Herbs

Group: Flowers, Indoor Plants

Group: Fruits, Nuts, Berries

Group: Classes to Place

Group: Landscape Ornamentals

Review Afterward:

Once everyone has completed the event, teams and their coaches may return to the event area and review the specimens and classes. Please know that much learning can take place in a review while the specimens are there and fresh on their minds.

Preparation Suggestions:

Please make sure your members know how to use the scantron form. On the back of the form, are four rows to use for identification. Each line will be used for a different group of plants. The class placings will be placed on the scantron form. You will want each member to have two #2 sharpened pencils and a clean clipboard. They will be supplied with the plant lists.

Please tell them they will be divided into groups and will need to stay with their group as they rotate from section to section. If they have questions, they may ask their group leader. They may not talk to the other members.

Please have them in official dress and ask them to cover their answers as much as possible.

I plan to take pictures of each of the specimens in the contest and supply them to you for use in your classroom or for future training. If you need to take a picture of your member participating in the CDE, please do so without hindering the member or conversing with them.

Good luck to you and your team.

Should you have questions about this event for clarification, I will be glad to answer them. Just email me at [strice@umd.edu](mailto:strice@umd.edu).

Susan Trice

University of Maryland Extension, Frederick County

Horticulture Educator/ Master Gardener Coordinator

330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD 21702

# FFA Horticulture CDE

## Sample Questions

1. A 'complete' fertilizer contains:
  - a. Lime, sulfur, compost
  - b. All micronutrients
  - c. Hydrogen, carbon and oxygen
  - d. Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium
2. Who is credited with the study and classification of plants?
  - a. Plato
  - b. Aristotle
  - c. Darwin
  - d. Linnaeus
3. When designing a landscape plan, a list of all needs and wishes of the resident/client is:
  - a. Made after the designer develops a plan
  - b. Should be done before drawing a plan
  - c. Done if there are enough funds
  - d. Not really important
4. Which of the following is an example of 'long day' plants?
  - a. Summer flowering plants
  - b. Poinsettias
  - c. Chrysanthemums
  - d. All of the above
5. Which of the following is used to provide a favorable temperature?
  - a. Cloche
  - b. Mulch
  - c. Cold frame
  - d. All of the above
6. Bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes are:
  - a. Underground storage organs
  - b. Colorful annuals
  - c. In bloom during fall plantings
  - d. Stored in a light, heated, damp room
7. Which of the following are considered to be tender vegetables?
  - a. Carrots, spinach, beets
  - b. Broccoli, cabbage, radishes
  - c. Peas, potatoes, turnips
  - d. Pepper, pumpkins, melons

## HORTICULTURE

CDE# 105482

Incorrect Marks	Correct Mark
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Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

This sheet is for demonstration and practice only. You must use a real scan sheet for actual competition.

[illegible]

Placing Classes												
	Place	Class									Place	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
1	1234										1234	1
2	1243										1243	2
3	1324										1324	3
4	1342										1342	4
5	1423										1423	5
6	1432										1432	6
7	2134										2134	7
8	2143										2143	8
9	2314										2314	9
10	2341										2341	10
11	2413										2413	11
12	2431										2431	12
13	3124										3124	13
14	3142										3142	14
15	3214										3214	15
16	3241										3241	16
17	3412										3412	17
18	3421										3421	18
19	4123										4123	19
20	4132										4132	20
21	4213										4213	21
22	4231										4231	22
23	4312										4312	23
24	4321										4321	24

[illegible]

Assessment and Solution																								
1	A	B	C	D	6	A	B	C	D	11	A	B	C	D	16	A	B	C	D	21	A	B	C	D
2	A	B	C	D	7	A	B	C	D	12	A	B	C	D	17	A	B	C	D	22	A	B	C	D
3	A	B	C	D	8	A	B	C	D	13	A	B	C	D	18	A	B	C	D	23	A	B	C	D
4	A	B	C	D	9	A	B	C	D	14	A	B	C	D	19	A	B	C	D	24	A	B	C	D
5	A	B	C	D	10	A	B	C	D	15	A	B	C	D	20	A	B	C	D	25	A	B	C	D

Exam					Exam 2/Team				
1	A	B	C	D	26	A	B	C	D
2	A	B	C	D	27	A	B	C	D
3	A	B	C	D	28	A	B	C	D
4	A	B	C	D	29	A	B	C	D
5	A	B	C	D	30	A	B	C	D
6	A	B	C	D	31	A	B	C	D
7	A	B	C	D	32	A	B	C	D
8	A	B	C	D	33	A	B	C	D
9	A	B	C	D	34	A	B	C	D
10	A	B	C	D	35	A	B	C	D
11	A	B	C	D	36	A	B	C	D
12	A	B	C	D	37	A	B	C	D
13	A	B	C	D	38	A	B	C	D
14	A	B	C	D	39	A	B	C	D
15	A	B	C	D	40	A	B	C	D
16	A	B	C	D	41	A	B	C	D
17	A	B	C	D	42	A	B	C	D
18	A	B	C	D	43	A	B	C	D
19	A	B	C	D	44	A	B	C	D
20	A	B	C	D	45	A	B	C	D
21	A	B	C	D	46	A	B	C	D
22	A	B	C	D	47	A	B	C	D
23	A	B	C	D	48	A	B	C	D
24	A	B	C	D	49	A	B	C	D
25	A	B	C	D	50	A	B	C	D

Group

Group

Group

62029

# MARYLAND FFA HORT PLANT LIST

	VEGETABLES
001	Artichoke
002	Asparagus
003	Basil
004	Bean
005	Beet
006	Broccoli
007	Brussels Sprouts
008	Cabbage
009	Carrot
010	Cauliflower
011	Celery
012	Chives
013	Corn
014	Cucumber
015	Dill
016	Edamame
017	Eggplant
018	Garlic
019	Horseradish
020	Kale
021	Kolhrabi
022	Leek
023	Lettuce
024	Muskmelon
025	Mustard
026	Okra
027	Onion
028	Parsley
029	Parsnip
030	Peas
031	Pepper
032	Potato (Irish)
033	Potato (Sweet)
034	Radish
035	Rhubarb
036	Rosemary
037	Sage
038	Spinach
039	Squash
040	Swiss Chard
041	Thyme
042	Tomatillo
043	Tomato
044	Turnip
045	Watermelon

	FRUITS, NUTS, & BERRIES
101	Almond
102	Apple
103	Apricot
104	Avocado
105	Banana
106	Blackberry
107	Black Walnut
108	Blueberry
109	Brazil Nut
110	Butternut
111	Cherry
112	Chestnut
113	Coconut
114	Coffee
115	Cranberry
116	Currant
117	Date
118	Elderberry
119	English Walnut
120	Fig
121	Filbert
122	Gooseberry
123	Grape
124	Grapefruit
125	Guava
126	Kiwi
127	Kumquat
128	Lemon
129	Macadamia Nut
130	Mango
131	Mulberry
132	Nectarine/Peach
133	Olive
134	Orange
135	Papaya
136	Pear
137	Pecan
138	Persimmon
139	Pineapple
140	Pistachio
141	Plum
142	Pomegranate
143	Raspberry
144	Shagbark Hickory
145	Strawberry

# MARYLAND FFA HORT PLANT LIST

	ORNAMENTALS
201	Arborvitae
202	Ash
203	Azalea, Rhododendron
204	Beech
205	Birch
206	Boxwood
207	Camellia
208	Cedar
209	Cottonwood/Poplar
210	Crapemyrtle
211	Dogwood
212	Elm
213	English Ivy
214	Euonymus
215	Fir
216	Forsythia
217	Ginkgo
218	Hawthorn
219	Hemlock
220	Hibiscus
221	Holly
222	Honey Locust
223	Hydrangea
224	Juniper
225	Lilac
226	Linden
227	Magnolia
228	Maple
229	Nandina
230	Oak
231	Periwinkle
232	Photinia
233	Pine
234	Pittosporum
235	Planetree
236	Potentilla
237	Redbud
238	Spirea
239	Spruce
240	Sweetgum
241	Viburnum
242	Willow
243	Wisteria
244	Yew
245	Yucca

	FLOWERS, INDOOR PLANTS
301	African Violet
302	Ageratum
303	Amaryllis
304	Bachelor Button
305	Begonia
306	Canna
307	Celosia
308	Chrysanthemum
309	Coleus
310	Columbine
311	Coralbell
312	Cosmos
313	Cranesbill
314	Crocus
315	Daffodil
316	Dahlia
317	Daylily
318	Dianthus
319	Dracaena
320	Dumbcane/Dieffenbachia
321	Ficus
322	Geranium
323	Gladiolus
324	Hollyhock
325	Hosta
326	Hyacinth
327	Impatiens
328	Iris
329	Lily (Easter, Asiatic, Oriental)
330	Marigold
331	Nasturtium
332	Pansy
333	Peony
334	Peperomia
335	Petunia
336	Philodendron
337	Purple Coneflower
338	Rose
339	Salvia
340	Schefflera
341	Sedum
342	Snakeplant/Sansevieria
343	Snapdragon
344	Tulip
345	Zinnia

NJHA

Flowers

(1)

## National Junior Horticultural Association

## Plant List for Identifying and Judging – Flowers and Indoor Plants

Plant Name/Type	Foliage/ Plant	Flower	Fruit, Nut or Edible Portion	Seed or Pit	Seedpod or Cone	Storage Organ
African Violet <i>Saintpaulia ionantha</i>	X	X				
Ageratum <i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	X	X		X		
Amaryllis <i>Hippeastrum</i> hybrids	X	X				X
Bachelor Button <i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	X	X		X		
Begonia <i>Begonia</i> sp.	X	X				
Canna <i>Canna</i> x <i>generalis</i>	X	X				X
Celosia <i>Celosia</i> sp.	X	X		X		
Chrysanthemum <i>Chrysanthemum</i> x <i>morifolium</i>	X	X				
Coleus <i>Solenostemon scutellarioides</i>	X	X				
Columbine <i>Aquilegia</i> x <i>hybrida</i>	X	X		X		
Coralbell <i>Huechera</i> sp.	X	X				
Cosmos <i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i> , <i>C. sulphureus</i>	X	X		X		
Cranesbill <i>Geranium</i> sp.	X	X			X	
Crocus	X	X				X
Daffodil <i>Narcissus</i> sp.	X	X				X
Dahlia <i>Dahlia</i> hybrids	X	X		X		X
Daylily <i>Hemerocallis</i> sp.	X	X			X	X
Dianthus spp. <i>Dianthus</i> sp.	X	X		X		
Dracaena <i>Dracaena</i> sp.	X					
Dumbcane/ Dieffenbachia <i>Dieffenbachia</i> sp.	X					
Ficus sp. <i>Ficus</i> sp.	X			X		
Geranium <i>Pelargonium</i> sp.	X	X			X	
Gladiolus <i>Gladiolus</i> x <i>hortulanus</i>	X	X				X

# Flowers

(2)

Plant Name/Type	Foliage/ Plant	Flower	Fruit, Nut or Edible Portion	Seed or Pit	Seedpod or Cone	Storage Organ
Hollyhock <i>Alcea rosea</i>	X	X		X	X	
Hosta <i>Hosta</i> sp.	X	X			X	
Hyacinth <i>Hyacinthus orientalis</i>	X	X				X
Impatiens <i>Impatiens walleriana</i> , <i>Impatiens hawkeri</i>	X	X		X	X	
Iris <i>Iris</i> sp.	X	X			X	X
Lily (Easter, Asiatic, Oriental) <i>Lilium</i> sp.	X	X				X
Marigold <i>Tagetes erecta</i> , <i>T. patula</i>	X	X		X		
Nasturtium <i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	X	X		X		
Pansy <i>Viola x wittrockiana</i>	X	X		X		
Peony <i>Paeonia</i> hybrids	X	X			X	X
Peperomia <i>Peperomia</i> sp.	X	X				
Petunia <i>Petunia x hybrida</i>	X	X		X		
Philodendron <i>Philodendron</i> sp.	X					
Purple Coneflower <i>Echinacea</i> sp.	X	X		X		
Rose <i>Rosa</i> sp.	X	X	X	X		
Salvia <i>Salvia</i> sp.	X	X				
Schefflera <i>Schefflera</i> sp.	X	X				
Sedum <i>Sedum</i> sp.	X	X				
Snakeplant/ Sansevieria <i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i> , <i>Sansevieria</i> sp.	X	X				
Snapdragon <i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	X	X		X		
Tulip <i>Tulipa</i> sp.	X	X				X
Zinnia <i>Zinnia</i> sp.	X	X		X		

## National Junior Horticultural Association

### Plant List for Identifying and Judging – Landscape Ornamentals

Plant Name/Type	Foliage/ Plant	Flower	Fruit, Nut or Edible Portion	Seed or Pit	Seedpod or Cone	Storage Organ
Arborvitae <i>Thuja</i> spp.	X			X	X	
Ash <i>Fraxinus</i> spp.	X			X		
Azalea, Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron</i> spp.	X	X		X		
Beech <i>Fagus</i> spp.	X			X	X	
Birch <i>Betula</i> spp.	X			X	X	
Boxwood <i>Buxus</i> spp.	X					
Camellia <i>Camellia</i> sp.	X	X			X	
Cedar <i>Cedrus</i> sp.	X				X	
Cottonwood/ Poplar <i>Populus</i> spp.	X			X	X	
Crapemyrtle <i>Lagerstroemia</i> sp.	X	X	X	X		
Dogwood <i>Cornus</i> spp.	X	X	X			
Elm <i>Ulmus</i> spp.	X			X		
English Ivy <i>Hedera helix</i>	X					
Euonymus <i>Euonymus</i> spp.	X			X	X	
Fir <i>Abies</i> spp.	X			X	X	
Forsythia <i>Forsythia</i> spp.	X	X				
Ginkgo <i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	X		X	X		
Hawthorn <i>Crataegus</i> spp.	X		X			
Hemlock <i>Tsuga</i> spp.	X			X	X	
Hibiscus <i>Hibiscus</i> sp.	X	X		X	X	
Holly <i>Ilex</i> spp.	X		X			
Honey locust <i>Gleditsia</i> spp.	X			X	X	
Hydrangea <i>Hydrangea</i> spp.	X	X				
Juniper <i>Juniperus</i> sp.	X		X	X		

# Ornamentals

(2)

Plant Name/Type	Foliage/ Plant	Flower	Fruit, Nut or Edible Portion	Seed or Pit	Seedpod or Cone	Storage Organ
Lilac <i>Syringa</i> spp.	X	X		X	X	
Linden <i>Tilia</i> sp.	X	X		X		
Magnolia <i>Magnolia</i> spp.	X	X		X	X	
Maple <i>Acer</i> spp.	X			X		
Nandina <i>Nandina</i> spp.	X	X	X			
Oak <i>Quercus</i> spp.	X			X		
Periwinkle (Vinca spp. ) <i>Vinca</i> spp.	X	X				
Photinia <i>Photinia</i> spp.	X	X				
Pine <i>Pinus</i> spp.	X			X	X	
Pittosporum <i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	X			X	X	
Planetree <i>Platanus</i> sp.	X			X	X	
Potentilla <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	X				X	
Redbud <i>Cercis</i> sp.	X	X		X	X	
Spirea <i>Spiraea</i> sp.	X	X				
Spruce <i>Picea</i> spp.	X			X	X	
Sweetgum <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	X				X	
Viburnum <i>Viburnum</i> sp.	X	X	X			
Willow <i>Salix</i> sp.	X					
Wisteria <i>Wisteria</i> spp.	X	X		X		
Yew <i>Taxus</i> spp.	X		X	X		
Yucca <i>Yucca</i> sp.	X	X	X	X		

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Plant List for Identifying and Judging – Fruits, Nuts and Berries

Plant Name/Type	Foliage/ Plant	Flower	Fruit, Nut or Edible Portion	Seed or Pit	Seedpod or Cone	Storage Organ
Almond <i>Prunus amygdalus</i>	X		X	X		
Apple <i>Malus domestica</i>	X		X	X		
Apricot <i>Prunus armeniaca</i>	X	X	X	X		
Avocado <i>Persea americana</i>	X		X	X		
Banana <i>Musa x paradisiaca</i>	X	X	X			
Blackberry <i>Rubus hybrids</i>	X		X			
Black walnut <i>Juglans nigra</i>	X		X			
Blueberry <i>Vaccinium sp.</i>	X	X	X			
Brazil Nut <i>Bertholletia excelsa</i>			X	X	X	
Butternut <i>Juglans cinerea</i>	X		X	X		
Cherry <i>Prunus cerasus, P. avium</i>	X		X	X		
Chestnut <i>Castanea mollissima</i> (Chinese)	X		X	X		
Coconut <i>Cocos nucifera</i>	X		X	X		
Coffee <i>Coffea sp.</i>	X	X	X	X		
Cranberry <i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>	X		X			
Currant <i>Ribes spp.</i>	X		X			
Date <i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	X		X	X		
Elderberry <i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	X	X	X			
English walnut <i>Juglans regia</i>	X		X			
Fig <i>Ficus carica</i>	X		X			
Filbert <i>Corylus avellana</i>	X		X	X		
Goosberry <i>Ribes spp.</i>	X		X			
Grape <i>Vitis spp.</i>	X		X	X		

FNB  
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Plant Name/Type	Foliage/ Plant	Flower	Fruit, Nut or Edible Portion	Seed or Pit	Seedpod or Cone	Storage Organ
Grapefruit <i>Citrus paradisi</i>	X		X	X		
Guava <i>Psidium guajava</i>	X	X	X	X		
Kiwi <i>Actinidia chinensis</i>	X		X			
Kumquat <i>Fortunella</i> spp.	X		X			
Lemon <i>Citrus limon</i>	X		X			
Macadamia Nut <i>Macadamia</i> sp.	X		X			
Mango <i>Mangifera indica</i>	X		X	X		
Mulberry <i>Morus alba</i>	X		X			
Nectarine/Peach <i>Prunus persica</i>	X	X	X	X		
Olive <i>Olea europaea</i>	X		X	X		
Orange <i>Citrus sinensis</i>	X		X			
Papaya <i>Carica papaya</i>	X	X	X	X		
Pear <i>Pyrus communis</i>	X		X			
Pecan <i>Carya illinoensis</i>	X		X			
Persimmon <i>Diospyros</i> sp.	X		X	X		
Pineapple <i>Ananas comosus</i>	X		X			
Pistachio <i>Pistacia vera</i>	X		X	X		
Plum <i>Prunus domestica</i> (European), <i>P. salicina</i> (Japanese)	X		X	X		
Pomegranate <i>Punica granatum</i>	X	X	X			
Raspberry <i>Rubus</i> spp.	X		X			
Shagbark Hickory <i>Carya ovata</i>	X		X	X		
Strawberry <i>Fragaria x ananassa</i>	X		X			

# Vegetables

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National Junior Horticultural Association

## Plant List for Identifying and Judging – Vegetables

Plant Name/Type	Foliage/ Plant	Flower	Fruit, Nut or Edible Portion	Seed or Pit	Seedpod or Cone	Storage Organ
Artichoke (Globe /Jerusalem) <i>Cynara scolymus</i> , <i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>	X	X	X	X		
Asparagus <i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	X		X	X		
Basil <i>Occimum basilicum</i>	X	X	X	X		
Bean <i>Phaseolus spp.</i>	X		X	X		
Beet <i>Beta vulgaris</i>	X		X	X		
Broccoli <i>Brassica oleracea</i>	X	X	X			
Brussels Sprouts <i>Brassica oleracea</i>	X		X			
Cabbage <i>Brassica oleracea</i>	X		X			
Carrot <i>Daucus carota</i> var. <i>sativus</i>	X	X	X	X		
Cauliflower <i>Brassica oleracea</i>	X		X			
Celery <i>Apium graveolens</i>	X		X	X		
Chives <i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	X		X	X		
Corn <i>Zea mays</i>	X	X	X	X		
Cucumber <i>Cucumis sativus</i>	X		X	X		
Dill <i>Anethum graveolens</i>	X	X	X	X		
Edamame (edible soybean) <i>Glycine max</i>	X	X		X	X	
Eggplant <i>Solanum melongena</i> var. <i>esculentum</i>	X	X	X	X		
Garlic <i>Allium sativum</i>	X	X	X			
Horseradish <i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	X	X		X		X
Kale <i>Brassica oleracea</i>	X		X			
Kolhrabi <i>Brassica oleracea</i>	X		X			

# Vegetables

## 2

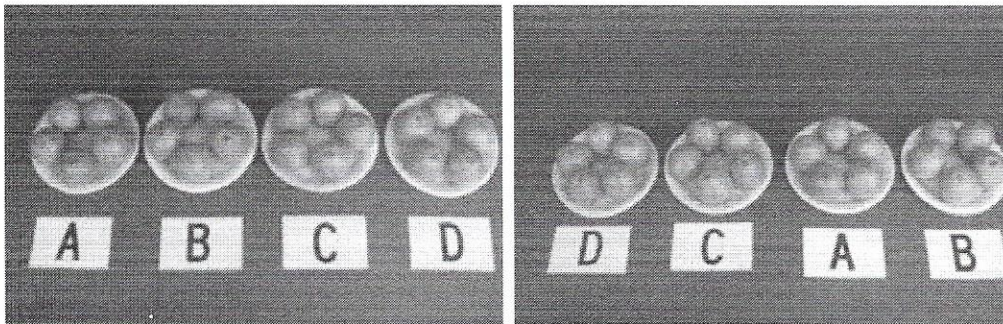
Plant Name/Type	Foliage/ Plant	Flower	Fruit, Nut or Edible Portion	Seed or Pit	Seedpod or Cone	Storage Organ
Leek <i>Allium porrum</i>	X		X			
Lettuce <i>Lactua sativa</i>	X		X	X		
Muskmelon <i>Cucumis melo</i>	X		X	X		
Mustard <i>Brassica</i> spp.	X		X			
Okra <i>Hibiscus esculentus</i>	X	X	X	X		
Onion <i>Allium cepa</i>	X	X	X	X		
Parsley <i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	X		X	X		
Parsnip <i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	X		X	X		
Peas <i>Pisum sativum</i>	X		X	X		
Pepper <i>Capsicum annuum</i>	X		X	X		
Potato (Irish) <i>Solanum tuberosum</i>	X	X	X			
Potato (Sweet) <i>Ipomoea batatas</i>	X	X	X			
Radish <i>Raphanus sativus</i>	X	X	X	X		
Rhubarb	X		X	X		
Rosemary <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	X	X				
Sage <i>Salvia officinalis</i>	X		X			
Spinach <i>Spinacia oleracea</i>	X		X	X		
Squash <i>Cucurbita</i> spp.	X		X	X		
Swiss chard <i>Beta vulgaris</i>	X		X			
Thyme <i>Thymus</i> sp.	X	X				
Tomatillo <i>Physalis ixocarpa</i>	X	X	X	X		
Tomato <i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>	X	X	X	X		
Turnip <i>Brassica rapa</i>	X		X			
Watermelon <i>Citrullus lanatus</i>	X		X	X		

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The eight classes of horticultural plants or produce to be judged will consist of:

- Two classes of fruits
- Two classes of vegetables
- Two classes of flowers and/or foliage plants
- Two classes of ornamental plants

Each class consists of four specimens of groups of specimens, lettered A, B, C, or D from left to right.



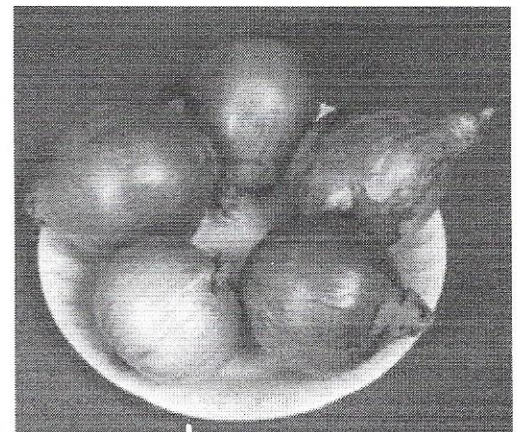
Mentally arrange the specimens in order of highest to lowest overall quality and mark them in the appropriate space on the judging score sheet in the column labeled "Placing."

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## Judging Fruits and Vegetables

Specific considerations on judging the 90 possible classes of fruits and vegetables is beyond the scope of this section of the contest manual. However, some general guidelines are presented to help you better recognize high quality fruits and vegetables and rank each class accordingly.

Judging fruits and vegetables is simply a matter of making choices. Consumers buy fruits and vegetables at the market by selecting those most appealing to them on the basis of external quality and past experience. Visit produce markets or produce sections of grocery stores to examine fruits and vegetables. Try



to identify the best quality produce and determine why some produce is of inferior quality. Notice that almost everyone "selects" fruits and vegetables – they do not just take the first ones or closest ones. The key is learning, through experience, how to select the best produce.

Judging fruits and vegetables is based on common sense factors. They are judged as you see them, not by what they could be if properly trimmed, cleaned, etc. The following criteria should be used when evaluating the quality of produce:

The cultivar of a specimen should be properly identified. For example, if you think you are purchasing a 'McIntosh' apple, you will probably not be satisfied with a 'Red Delicious' apple.

Specimens should be fresh and at the optimum stage of maturity for eating. Produce that is overmature or immature is downgraded.

Specimens should be clean and free from insects and diseases or any damage caused by such pests.

Specimens should be free of bruises and blemishes. Although many surface blemishes do not affect eating quality, they do reduce eye appeal.

Specimens on a plate should be uniform in size, shape, color and type. Each plate within a class will have the same number of specimens.

Transplant specimens in pots should have only one plant/pot, and should not be overgrown so that they are root-bound (roots encircling the pot).

When grading, first visualize the ideal specimen. Then, consider all departures from this based on the above criteria and common sense. Factors affecting usefulness are downgraded more than other factors. For example, severely overripe bananas would be ranked below bananas with slight abnormalities in size or shape. The plate with the most defects and serious faults should receive the lowest ranking.

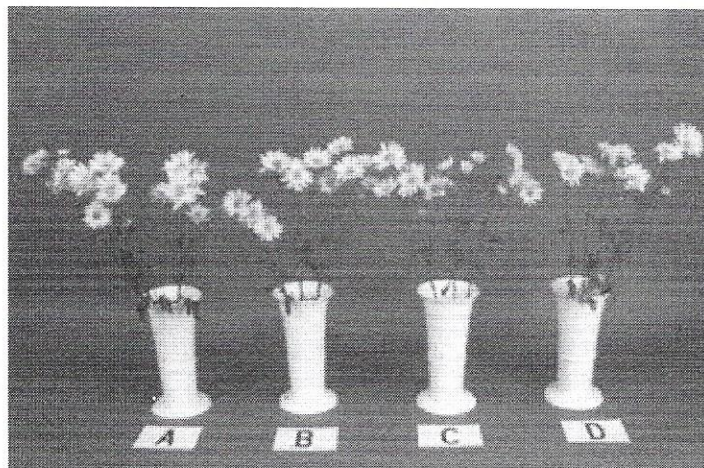
It is usually best to first identify the worst group (plate) within a class. Then, pick the best of the remaining three groups. Finally, try to place the middle two plates in rank order.

In our scoring scheme, the correct selection of the best group or specimen within a class is worth 76 percent of the total score for that class regardless of how the other three specimens/groups are ranked. By correctly placing the best and worst groups (specimens) within a class, the contestant earns 88 percent of the possible points for that class.

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## Judging Flowers and Foliage

Flowers are divided into two categories for judging purposes – cut flowers and pot plants.



Cut flowers can be divided into two main shapes – spike and round. Gladiolus and snapdragon are examples of spike flowers. Rose and chrysanthemum are examples of round flowers.

When judging spike flowers, look for long spikes with half the florets open and half unopened. The bottom florets should show no signs of over-maturity in the form of browning around the edges, shriveling, or fading of color. Spike form flowers should be just single spikes with no secondary side shoots.

Maturity is an important factor when judging round form flowers. The center petals must not be so tight and immature as to be green, but they should be tighter than the outer petals. The outer petals should begin to turn down, but show no signs of wilting and drying.

Spike or round flowers in the same class should be of one variety or cultivar and have typical characteristics of that variety. Flowers are judged as you see them, not by what they could be if properly trimmed, cleaned, etc. Flowers should be free of irregularities, spray residue and blemishes due to insect, disease, or mechanical injury. Stems should all be the same length, straight and strong enough to support the flower head without bending. Foliage should be clean, fresh and a bright shade of green.

Size of bloom, symmetry, color, freshness, arrangement of petals and true-to-variety flower shape are other important points to consider when judging flowers.

Potted flowering plants should be short, compact, well-shaped plants having dark green foliage with flower buds just beginning to show color or perhaps with a few buds open. Specimens having the most flower buds are normally more desirable.

Judging foliage plants is similar to judging potted plants, but much more attention should be given to the quality of the foliage. The size, color and number of the leaves as well as the size and shape of the plant and whether it appears to be growing, are all criteria to consider.

## Judging Ornamentals

When judging ornamentals, look for a healthy, vigorous plant which is very well shaped, heavily branched and densely foliated. Specimens are judged as you see them, not by what their potential would be with proper pruning, cleaning, etc. Density and condition of

the plant are more important qualities than the physical measurement or height. A shrub with a number of stocky, wellshaped branches is of better quality than one with long, thin branches. Factors that downgrade ornamental plants are:

1. Lack of health and vigor, or excessive succulence.
2. Canes or trunk(s) and branches:
  - a. Weak or poorly formed
  - b. Excessive scarring, scars not healed properly
  - c. Poor graft unions not healing properly
  - d. Branches poorly distributed
  - e. Dead wood
  - f. Cold damage
3. Foliage:
  - a. Leaves of improper shape, size, texture and color
  - b. Excessive chlorosis (yellowing) due to mineral deficiency or other causes
  - c. Excessive pest or mechanical injury
  - d. Dead leaves
4. Root system:
  - a. Container grown stock
    1. Not well established in container
    2. Excessively root bound
    3. Large roots growing out of container
  - b. Balled and burlapped stock
    1. Loosely established in ball
    2. Ball soft or loosely tied
    3. Ball too small or shallow