

HORTICULTURE IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

Contest Description:	This contest provides the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge of horticultural plants, their parts and products. Participation in the contest should result in improved abilities to recognize, use, grow, and appreciate the offerings of horticulture. Contest has three (3) components to it, which include: A) Four classes of four plates/specimens of vegetable, fruit or nut, flower, and woody ornamental, each to be judged based on quality and condition. B) Twenty (20) objective type questions (true/false, multiple choice) dealing with horticultural topics learned in 4-H project work, and C) Forty (40) specimens containing ten (10) each of the following major categories must be identified: vegetables, fruits and nuts, floricultural plants (annual flowers, herbaceous perennials, foliage plants), and woody ornamentals (tree, shrubs, ground covers, and can also include lawn grasses).
Superintendent(s):	Dr. Kathryn Fontenot
Award:	Louisiana 4-H Educational Trip
Grade/Age Requirement(s):	Must be enrolled in 8 th to 12 th Grade as of August 1, 2021.
Team or Individual Contest:	Individual
Number of Entries Per Parish:	One (1) to four (4) entries

Contest Rules:

1. Refer to Louisiana 4-H University General Rules and Guidelines for a complete set of event rules and guidelines.
2. The state contest at 4-H University will be composed of three (3) major sections: Judging, Information, and Identification (700 possible points).
 - a. **Judging (100 points).** Four classes of 4 plates or specimens of (1) vegetable, (1) fruit or nut, (1) flower, and (1) woody ornamental, each to be judged based on quality and condition. Fresh, frozen, canned, or processed vegetables and fruits may be used. Students will rank plants in each class from first to fourth place. Cut flowers, potted plants, potted ornamentals, balled and burlapped, bare root nursery stock, or cuttings from live plants may be used in the flower and woody ornamental classes. A scenario will be provided to describe the intended use and necessary timing of use of the specimens.
 - b. **Information (200 points).** Twenty objective type questions (true/false, multiple choice) dealing with horticultural topics taken from the following references:
 - Pub. 1980 Louisiana Vegetable Planting Guide
 - Pub. 1622 Trees for Louisiana Landscapes – A Handbook
 - Pub. 2641 Ground Covers and Vines for Louisiana – A Handbook
 - Pub. 1884 The Louisiana Home Orchard
 - Pub. 2230 Turfgrass for Louisiana Lawns
 - Pub. 2747 Annual Bedding Plants for Louisiana – A Handbook
 - c. **Identification (400 points).** Forty (40) specimens containing ten (10) each of the following major categories must be identified: vegetables, fruits and nuts, floricultural plants (annual flowers, herbaceous perennials, foliage plants), and woody ornamentals (tree, shrubs, ground covers, and can also include lawn grasses). These specimens will be selected from the list provided in the *Horticulture Identification and Evaluation Study Guide, Revised 2022*. Plant parts (characteristic of the species) may be used to represent the specimen to be identified.

3. At the conclusion of the contest, the superintendent will review the contest and test question answers, the judging section, and the plant id section. It is encouraged for participants and agents to attend and review.
4. During the contest, contestants will be separated from the same parish so that each member of the team will be placed in one of three groups. Contestants will be allowed thirty (30) minutes to complete each phase of the contest. At the end of thirty minutes, the contestants will rotate as groups to the next section. Specimens are not to be touched, especially in the Judging Section.

Other Information

Direct questions on study materials to Horticulture Professor Dr. Kathryn Fontenot at 225/235-9968 or via email at kkfontenot@agcenter.lsu.edu. Access publications at www.louisianalawnandgarden.org and www.lsuagcenter.com.

Contest Resource(s):

- Louisiana 4-H Publication, “*Understanding the 4-H Judging Contest Process*”. 2022 Ed.
- Horticulture Identification and Evaluation Contest Study Guide, Revised 2022