



2026

Nursery/Landscape

2026 Updates

Below is a summary of updates to the Nursery Landscape CDE Handbook for the 2026 convention cycle. We plan to release handbook changes that may impact instruction in June of the year prior but may finalize smaller updates through February of the competition year. All updates and changes aim to provide a positive, relevant experience for all competitors.

HANDBOOK UPDATE:

JULY 2025

JANUARY 2026

Policies and Guidelines

I. Eligibility of Students

- Added — Eligibility is based on the National FFA membership year (August 1–July 31)—not a school's academic calendar or “rising grade” designation.

***Rationale:** Clarifying that a student must be a 7th-grade member on the date of the qualifying event to compete or qualify at a state qualifying event. A student who is still a 6th-grade member on that date is not eligible to qualify and may compete for 7th-grade consideration only in qualifying events held on or after August 1.*

- Equipment provided: Removed the engineer's scale from the list.

***Rationale:** Clarified that the equipment to be provided is consistent and matches industry procedures.*

Refer to the National FFA Career and Leadership Events webpage on [FFA.org](https://ffa.org) for the most up-to-date career and leadership development handbook edition.

CONTACT

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FFA VISION

Growing the next generation of leaders who will change the world.

FFA MISSION

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

FFA CODE OF CONDUCT

FFA members participating in National FFA programs understand and agree to abide by the National FFA Code of Conduct at:
<https://ffa.app.box.com/s/x6l2lkovv4x9tgiegy73mei30zvlip5j>

Guiding Principles

National awards and competitive events should:

1. Inspire members to explore, learn, and be prepared for future careers related to the AFNR career pathways and FFA AFNR Value Chain.
2. Recognize achievements in skill development and knowledge, including:
 - a. leveraging relevant technologies
 - b. utilizing creative problem-solving
 - c. meeting developmentally appropriate learning objectives (Bloom's Taxonomy)
 - d. utilizing employability skills (teamwork, communication, collaboration)
3. Be accessible and engaging for all students and FFA members.
4. Provide awards and recognition opportunities for students at all levels.
5. Work with other groups to utilize or partner with existing experiences.
6. Provide feedback that promotes personal and professional growth.

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Cluster Content Standards

The National Council for Agricultural Education has provided permission to the National FFA Organization to use the National AFNR Career Cluster Content Standards in the development of their educational resource materials. The National Council for Agricultural Education is the owner and developer of the National AFNR Career Cluster Content Standards © 2016 and reserves all rights to the original material used here with permission. In addition, The National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education/National Career Technical Education Foundation (NASDCTE/NCTEF) has provided permission to use the Common Career and Technical Core (CCTC) Standards in support of this project. NASDCTE/NCTEF are the owners and developers of the Common Career and Technical Core (CCTC) Standards © 2012 and reserve all rights to the original material used here with permission.

The National FFA Organization has adopted the AFNR Career Cluster Content Standards and integrated them into the national award and recognition programs for the benefit of members, school administration, and agriculture as a whole. For a complete set of the standards, please visit the [2016 AFNR Career Cluster Content Standards](https://ffa.org). You may access the standards alignments for this event at: <https://ffa.box.com/s/hrxlqvw7q6zo54xfi5x5kytlyusqjhy0>.

Professional Integrity

FFA members participating in national FFA programs and events understand and agree that all work must result from their own effort and ability, created, and completed alone (except for partner or chapter applications). When outside sources (direct quotes or phrases, specific dates, figures, or other materials) are used for a project, document, or application, the required reference citation must be completed according to the rules specified by the applicable handbook.

While participating in National FFA programs, FFA members are prohibited from:

- Plagiarizing
- Violating copyright
- Cheating
- Falsifying information
- Using another person's results or thoughts as their own, even with this person's permission. This includes work done by a family member or a mentor.
- Using information or data obtained from the internet without proper citation.

Any attempt to gain an unfair advantage will not be tolerated. Non-compliance represents plagiarism and will automatically disqualify a member.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for National Programs and Events

Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to computer systems capable of performing complex tasks that historically only a human could do, such as reasoning, making decisions, or solving problems. As AI continues to evolve, it can be a tremendous tool to help companies, organizations and individuals enhance their productivity and work. Therefore, the National FFA Organization allows the use of AI tools. FFA members may use AI tools, such as ChatGPT, Gemini, and CoPilot, to assist them in their learning.

Appropriate uses of AI may include:

- generating ideas for any FFA-related assignments, projects, contests and award applications
- checking facts of a phenomenon
- checking for and correcting grammatical errors in a paper written by a member

For more information, please see the [Standard Operating Procedures on the Use of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) for National Programs and Events document](#).

Member Safety

At National FFA, we're committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all members— students, educators, and families alike. We believe in fostering premier leadership, personal growth, and career success, and that starts with a community built on respect and professionalism. These guidelines outline the expectations for behavior and conduct across all FFA activities and spaces. By upholding these principles, members help ensure FFA remains a place where everyone can thrive.

Please take a moment to review these policies, [here](#) (Member Safety at FFA.org), which includes an agreement to abide by the [National FFA Code of Conduct](#). Adherence is essential—violations may result in disciplinary action, including restricted access to events.

2026 CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS GUIDELINES

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

I. Eligibility of Students

- a. Eligibility is based on the National FFA membership year (August 1–July 31)—not a school’s academic calendar or “rising grade” designation.
- b. Each student must be a student FFA member on the current roster in good standing with the local chapter, state FFA association, and the National FFA Organization during the school year in which the student qualified to participate at the national level.
- c. If a student’s name is not on the chapter’s official roster, please work with the National FFA membership team to update the membership before the national event.
- d. The student, at the national event, must be:
 - i. A secondary education (grades 7–12) FFA member during the school year in which the participant qualified to participate at the national level as determined by the roster at the time of qualifying.
 - ii. A graduating senior is eligible to compete in state and national career and leadership development events up to and including their first national convention following graduation.)
 - iii. Participants in the Creed Speaking and Conduct of Chapter Meetings LDEs must qualify as a 7th, 8th, or 9th grade member.
- e. If a student moves to a different chapter or a different state once the student has qualified as a state representative in an event, that student may be allowed to compete in the national event with the school they qualified with during the qualifying year.
- f. A student may only participate in the same official CDE/LDE once. No student may participate in more than one National FFA event each year.
- g. Each student participating in a national event must complete an online Waiver and release of Liability through the convention registration system.

II. Selection/Certification of State Teams

- a. Each state will submit a team declaration form by July 1, before the national FFA convention. Participation in each declared event will incur an entry processing fee. [State Staff Declaration Instructions](#)
- b. Each team will be composed of the number of members determined by the specific event rules and formats. The members of a state team must be from the same chapter.
- c. All students must be certified online by the designated deadline of Sept. 1 or within 10 days of the qualifying date if after the deadline. Advisors or state staff must certify members in each event by the certification deadline [How to certify a team or member Instructions](#)
- d. Once the original certification has been completed, no member may be added without first deleting a member. (See III. Drop/Add Process).
- e. State staff shall approve students are eligible (See I. Eligibility of Students). [State Staff Certification Approval Instructions](#) If an ineligible student participates in any career or leadership development event, the member will be disqualified, which may also impact the team’s ranking.
- f. States may approve teams comprised of fewer members than the required members.
- g. Substitutions of any student or team are subject to the determination and approval of the state association.
- h. If reputable international competitions invite teams to competition the national organization will certify National FFA Career and Leadership Development Event winners for international competition when states request. This is with the understanding that the state team will provide their travel expenses.

III. Drop/Add Process

- a. If a student needs to be substituted or dropped, the online drop/add process must be used to substitute or drop the team member. A team member must be dropped before another team member may be substituted. [How to Drop/Add a team member Instructions](#)
- b. The Drop/Add must be submitted one hour before the first event component or official activity of an event as listed in the schedule of events. Changes will not be permitted after this time.
- c. Members added to any team must meet all the eligibility and membership requirements described in this Guide's other sections.
- d. Substitutions may be allowed after the online document submission date (See individual Event Handbooks for details).
- d. Any assistance given to a student from any source other than the career development event officials or assistants will be sufficient to disqualify that student from the career and leadership development event.
- e. Event superintendents may stop any student if they deem their manner hazardous to themselves or others. Such action may result in a zero or lower score for that student for that section of the career or leadership development event.
- f. Students who start an event and do not complete it without notifying event officials at the time of departure may be disqualified. This can affect the overall team rank and position; in some events, it could also disqualify the entire team.
- g. Students will not be allowed to utilize personal electronic communication devices other than those approved by the event officials during the entire event. Students who access personal electronic communication devices without prior approval from the event officials may be disqualified from the national event.

IV. Disqualification

- a. FFA members participating in national FFA programs and events understand and agree that all work must result from their effort and ability, created and completed alone (except for partner or chapter applications). Details about Professional Integrity, the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for National Programs and Events, and the National FFA Code of Conduct are included in event handbooks.
- b. Any verbal or non-verbal communication between students during an event that is not part of the event will be sufficient cause to eliminate the team member involved from the career development event.
- c. Teams or students arriving after the career development event has begun may be disqualified or penalized. This includes a zero or lower score for that team or student for the missed section of the career or leadership development event.
- h. Any CDE/LDE student, team, advisor, or coach who is proven to have gained access to event materials intended for or utilized by the event committee during the competition will be disqualified from the national event.

Purpose

The purpose of the National FFA Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event is to promote career interest, encourage proficiency development and recognize excellence in participants of the event which includes all aspects of the industry to produce, market, utilize and maintain landscape plants (woody and herbaceous plants and turf grasses), as well as related production and landscaping products, equipment and services including design.

Objectives

Participants in the nursery/landscape CDE will be able to utilize the skills specific to each of the following categories:

- **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 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.

Event Rules

Review the Career and Leadership Development Event Policy and Guidelines for information on eligibility, selection, certification, team member changes, disqualification and more.

[General Information for National Competition](#) can provide general guidance on preparing for national competition.

- The team will consist of four members, with all four scores determining the team score.
- It is highly recommended that participants wear appropriate “work clothing” for the activities for the competition.
- Coaches may accompany participants to the event site but must leave the area at the start of the event. At the conclusion of all event components, the superintendent will

announce when participants, visitors and coaches may enter the competition area to review the materials and organization.

- Under no circumstances will any participant be allowed to touch or handle plant materials or other specimens during the event except as expressly permitted in practicums.

Event Format

Activities and practicums will identify time limits. Time limits given are approximate and subject to change.

Equipment to bring:

- A clean clipboard
- At least two No. 2 pencils
- Additional items allowed, but not required, include the following:
 - A hand pruner or knife.

Equipment Provided:

- Calculators will be provided —battery operated, non-programmable and non-scientific (basic five function only). No other calculators can be used during the event.
- An architect's scale
- Hand pruners

TEAM INTERACTIVE EVENTS

Phase 1-A: Team Skills Challenge (400 team points)

This phase is designed to evaluate the team's ability to apply nursery/landscape knowledge and skills by completing a variety of hands-on and problem-solving activities. No equipment will be started during the event. Teams will be given a list of tasks that may be accomplished individually, in pairs or in larger numbers as determined by the team members according to the skills, experience and preferences of each team member. After completing their tasks, team members may then assist other team members as time allows. The number and type of activities will vary from year to year. General topic areas (not actual tasks) will be communicated in the team orientation packet. Both objective questions and qualitative evaluations may be included in the task scoring. Some examples of activities include the following:

- Determine equipment specifications and demonstrate pre-check operations.
- Demonstrate and/or explain lawn care procedures and equipment operation.
- Demonstrate and/or explain hardscape procedures, e.g., pavers or retaining wall installation, or irrigation pipe assembly.
- Demonstrate and/or explain chemical handling procedures, e.g., fertilizer or pesticide equipment calibration and application.
- Demonstrate and/or explain preparing service receipts.
- Demonstrate and/or explain plant material quality assessment.
- Demonstrate and/or explain pruning maintenance.
- Demonstrate and/or explain safety practices.

Scoring of the separate tasks will be based on correct answers for objective questions or on criteria appropriate for the task recorded by a judge.

Phase 1-B: Team Cooperation (50 team points)

This practicum is designed to evaluate how well the participants organize and work together in planning and accomplishing each task in the Team Skills in the allotted time. This will be scored by a judge who will observe the team while Team Skills instructions are given and throughout the completion of all Skill assignments.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Phase 2: General Knowledge Examination (150 points per contestant)

Objective questions will be prepared on topics reflecting subject areas in the objectives. This phase will evaluate the participant's knowledge and understanding of basic horticultural principles in producing, marketing, using and maintaining landscape plants and turf. Participants will record their answers on a scan form.

Phase 3: Identification of Plants, Pests, Disorders, and Beneficial Insect (140 points per contestant)

Participants will identify items selected from the provided list covering the following categories:

- Plant materials will be presented as intact, live specimens, photos, plant parts or any combination.
- Pests and disorders will be presented as a damaged specimen, photograph or preserved specimen, herbarium sheet, insect mount, etc. A "disorder" label will be with an item to designate identification of a problem rather than the plant.
- Beneficial insects and other organisms that benefit the landscape by feeding on harmful organisms.

Each specimen will be designated by a station number. When the participant identifies the item, its name is then located on the identification list. The participant then records the number by that name on a scan form at the respective station number.

Each participant will be provided a copy of the list at the event site. No specimens or items may be touched or handled in any way.

Phase 4: Landscape Estimating (100 points per contestant)

This practicum is designed to evaluate participant knowledge of and ability in the following areas:

- Evaluating a landscape design
- Reading a landscape drawing
- Determining materials needed to execute a landscape plan
- Maintenance, estimating and bidding
- Evaluating factors that affect profitability of a landscape business

A landscape drawing, scratch paper and a calculator will be provided to the participants. There will be objective questions about the landscape plan. Participants will record their answers using a scan form.

Phase 5: Verbal Customer Assistance (50 points per contestant)

This interpersonal relations practicum is designed to evaluate participant knowledge of and ability in the following areas:

- Verbal communication
- Sales and customer assistance skills
- Plant materials, plant culture and problems
- Nursery and landscape supplies and equipment

The participant will assume the role of a business customer service representative (garden center or other related business or an educational agency) responding to an assistance need of the customer or client (the judge). General themes might include, but are not limited to, the following: clinical diagnosis or recommendations; care advice; sales of plants, equipment, materials or treatments; dealing with complaints.

Each participant will be located at a separate station with one minute allotted to review the materials and information provided prior to arrival of the judge. These materials may be handled and referred to as appropriate for the conversation with the judge. Plants, disorders and supplies not listed on the material and plant resource lists will be communicated prior to the event. Scoring criteria are listed on the respective scorecard.

Phase 6: Nursery Propagation or Potting (50 points per contestant)

This practicum evaluates participant knowledge of and ability to perform fundamental nursery production practices. All participants will perform one of the following exercises. The selected exercise will not be announced prior to the start of the event.

- **Propagating Nursery Stock:** Each participant will be furnished with a stock plant or stock plant material, rooting flat and media, rooting hormone, a hand pruner, a label and marking pen. Personal propagating knives or pruners are allowed. Participants are to prepare the cuttings and place them in the media with a single label.
- **Potting Nursery Stock:** Each participant will be furnished with a supply of plants, nursery containers of appropriate size and growing media. Hand pruners, a label and a marking pen will also be provided. Personal pruners are allowed. The participants will pot the plants, one per container, using standard nursery practices. Plant division or grading of liners may be involved. One finished container will be labeled.

An official will observe and score each participant during the practicum. Following completion of the assigned practicum, the official will ask questions regarding the propagation or potting activity. Scoring criteria are listed on the respective scorecards.

Scoring

Participant scores are the sum of the five individual phases of the event. Team scores are the sum of all member's scores plus the group portion of the team skills challenge. Possible points are as follows:

Phase	Individual Points	Team Points
General knowledge exam	150	600
Identification	140	560
Landscape estimating	100	400
Verbal customer assistance	50	200
Nursery propagation/potting	50	200
Team Skills Challenge		400
o Team Cooperation		50
POINT TOTALS	490	2,410

TIEBREAKERS

If needed in the case of ties, final placings will be determined by comparing, in order, scores for the following:

Individuals

- General knowledge exam
- Identification
- Landscape estimating

Teams

- Team skills challenge
- Team general knowledge exam score
- Team Identification exam score

Awards

Awards will be presented to individuals and teams at the awards ceremony based on their rankings. Advisors of cash award recipients will receive information about claiming their award following the convention. Guidelines for amounts and recipients of cash awards can be found [here](#). Corporate partners help grow the next generation of leaders through supporting AFNR pathways awards. Specialty awards certificates will be presented to the top three in each category:

Individuals

- **Nursery/Landscape Knowledge and Principles:** This award is based on the composite score from the Written Exam and Identification section.
- **Nursery/Landscape Applications:** This award is based on the composite score from the following practicums: Landscape Estimating, Verbal Customer Assistance, and Potting/Propagation.

Teams

- **Team Skills:** This award is based on the composite score, including the Team Cooperation score.

References

The following list of references is a guide to team training and is not meant to be all-inclusive.

Some content areas have more than one title listed. This reflects the wide array of quality references available for this event. No single reference is recommended as superior over others in that area. Multiple references are desirable as no single source is comprehensive for the entire nursery/landscape CDE. References other than those listed may be equally valuable resources, along with the many video and computer-based training aids available.

- Nursery/Landscape CDE materials, shop.FFA.org
- Past CDE materials and other resources are available on FFA.org.

GENERAL REFERENCES

- Introduction to Horticulture. (Current edition.) Charles B. Schroeder, Eddie Dean Seagle, Lorrie M. Felton, John M. Ruter, William Terry Kell, and Gerard Krewer. Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J. ISBN 0130364134
- Introductory Horticulture. (Current edition.) H. Edward Reiley and Carroll L. Shry, Jr. Clifton Park, N.Y.: Cengage Learning. ISBN 9781435480391
- Ornamental Horticulture. Current edition. Jack Ingels. Cengage Learning., Albany, N.Y. ISBN-13: 9781435498167
- Introduction to Plant and Soil Science and Technology. (Current edition.) Ronald J. Biondo and Jasper S. Lee. Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J. ISBN 0813432162

LANDSCAPE

- Landscaping Principles and Practices. (Current edition.) Jack Ingels. Cengage Learning., Albany, N.Y. ISBN 13: 9781428376410
- Landscaping Construction. (Current edition.) David Sauter. Cengage Learning., Albany, N.Y. ISBN 143549718X
- Landscape Training Manuals for Installation, Irrigation, and Maintenance Technicians. (Current edition.) National Association of Landscape Professionals, 950 Herndon Pkwy, Suite 450, Herndon, Va. 20170, https://www.landscapeprofessionals.org/LP/Store/Publications/PUBK_001.aspx

TURF

- Turfgrass Science and Management. (Current edition.) Robert D. Emmons. Cengage Learning, Albany, N.Y. ISBN 10: 1418013307

NURSERY

- Plant Propagation: Principles and Practices. (Current edition.) Hudson T. Hartmann, Fred T. Davies, Jr., Dale E. Kester, and Robert L. Genieve. Pearson Education, Boston. ISBN 0135014492
- American Standard for Nursery Stock. (Current edition.) American Hort, 525 9th St NW Suite 800, Washington, DC. (available as a pdf file free to nonmembers at <https://www.americanhort.org/education/american-nursery-stock-standards/>)

SECONDARY REFERENCES

- Practical Horticulture. (Current edition.) Laura W. Rice and Robert P. Rice. Pearson, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J. ISBN 0135038669
- Manual of Woody Landscape Plants. (Current edition.) Michael A. Dirr. Stipes Publishing Co., Champaign, Ill. ISBN 978-1-58874-868-3
- Know It and Grow It III: A Guide to the Identification and Use of Landscape Plants. (Current edition.) Carl E. Whitcomb. Lacebark, Inc. Stillwater, Okla. ISBN 0961310910
- Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants. (Current edition.) Steven M. Still. Stipes Publishing Co., Champaign, Ill. ISBN 0-87563-433-8.
- Herbaceous Perennial Plants: A Treatise on Their Identification, Culture, and Garden Attributes. (Current edition.) Allan M. Armitage, Stipes Publishing Co., Champaign, Ill. ISBN 978-1-58874-868-3.
- Landscape Construction Procedures, Techniques, and Design. (Current edition.) Floyd Giles. Stipes Publishing Co., Champaign, Ill. ISBN 0875638848

TRADE PERIODICALS

- Turf Magazine plus several other on-line titles. Moose River Media LLC., <https://turfmagazine.com/>
- [Lawn and Landscape.com](http://LawnandLandscape.com)
- [Landscape Management.net](http://LandscapeManagement.net)
- The Edge— NALP's publication, <https://www.landscapeprofessionals.org/LP/LP/Media/planet-news.aspx>
- Nursery Management Magazine, nurserymag.com

INDUSTRY CATALOGS

- Many horticultural supply company catalogs can be utilized for reference support on tools, equipment and supplies that may not be illustrated in other sources.
- A.M. Leonard, Inc., 665 Spiker Road, Piqua, OH 45356 (513/773-2697 or <https://www.amleo.com/>)
- Hummert International, 4500 Earth City Expressway, Earth City, Mo. 63045, 800-325-3055, <https://www.hummert.com>

WEBSITES AND PROBLEM SAMPLES

Additional links and resources will be included as they are developed or identified, along with the following links of the CDE partners:

- <http://www.stihlusa.com/information/>
- <http://www.kubota.com>
- <https://www.upl-ltd.com/us>
- <http://www.treefund.org>
- <https://www.landscapeprofessionals.org/>

Nursery/Landscape Plant Identification

No.	Botanical Name	Common Name
101	<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i> cv.	Glossy Abelia
102	<i>Acer palmatum</i> cv.	Japanese Maple
103	<i>Acer rubrum</i> cv.	Red Maple
104	<i>Acer saccharum</i> cv.	Sugar Maple
105	<i>Aglaonema commutatum</i>	'Chinese Evergreen'
106	<i>Ajuga reptans</i> cv.	Carpet Bugle
107	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Downy Serviceberry
108	<i>Aquilegia x hybrida</i> cv.	Columbine
109	<i>Astilbe hybrid</i> cv.	Astilbe
110	<i>Begonia semperflorens-cultorum</i>	Wax Begonia
111	<i>Berberis x mentorensis</i>	Mentor Barberry
112	<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch
113	<i>Buddleia davidii</i> cv.	Butterfly Bush
114	<i>Buxus microphylla</i> cv.	Littleleaf Boxwood
115	<i>Camellia japonica</i> cv.	Common Camellia
116	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> 'Glauca'	Blue Atlas Cedar
117	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud
118	<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i> cv.	Japanese (Flowering) Quince
119	<i>Clematis hybrid</i>	Clematis
120	<i>Cornus florida</i> cv.	Flowering Dogwood
121	<i>Cotoneaster dammeri</i>	Bearberry Cotoneaster
122	<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	Washington Hawthorn
123	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> cv	Bermudagrass
124	<i>Dieffenbachia maculata</i> cv.	Spotted Dumb Cane
125	<i>Dracaena deremensis</i> 'Warneckii'	Striped Dracaena
126	<i>Dracaena fragrans</i> 'Massangeana'	Corn Plant
127	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower
128	<i>Epipremnum spp.</i>	Pothos
129	<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Winged Euonymus
130	<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> cv.	Wintercreeper
131	<i>Fraxinus American</i> cv.	White Ash
132	<i>Festuca spp. and</i> cv.	Fescue
133	<i>Ficus benjamina</i>	Benjamin Fig
134	<i>Ficus elastica</i> 'Decora'	Decora Rubber Plant
135	<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i> cv.	Border Forsythia
136	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i> cv.	Common Blanketflower

No.	Botanical Name	Common Name
137	<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i> cv.	Gardenia
138	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginkgo, Maidenhair Tree
139	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i> cv.	Thornless Honeylocust
140	<i>Hedera helix</i> cv.	English Ivy
141	<i>Helleborus orientalis</i> cv.	Lenten Rose
142	<i>Heemerocallis spp. and</i> cv.	Day lily
143	<i>Heptapleurum actinophylla</i>	Schefflera, Octopus Tree
144	<i>Heptapleurum arbuticola</i>	Dwarf Schefflera
145	<i>Heuchera</i> cv.	Coral Bells, Alumroot
146	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i> cv	Rose of Sharon
147	<i>Hosta x hybrida</i> cv.	Plantain Lily
148	<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	Bigleaf Hydrangea
149	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oakleaf Hydrangea
150	<i>Ilex cornuta</i> cv.	Chinese Holly
151	<i>Ilex crenata</i> cv.	Japanese Holly
152	<i>Ilex x meserveae</i> cv.	Meserve Holly
153	<i>Impatiens hybrid</i> cv.	Impatiens
154	<i>Itea virginica</i>	Sweetspire
155	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> cv.	Chinese Juniper
156	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i> cv.	Creeping Juniper
157	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> cv.	Crape Myrtle
158	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> *New 2025	*New 2025 English Lavendar
159	<i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i> cv.	Shasta Daisy
160	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweet Gum
161	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tuliptree
162	<i>Liriope spp.</i> cv.	Lilyturf
163	<i>Lonicera japonica</i> 'Halliana'	Hall's Japanese Honeysuckle
164	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> cv.	Southern Magnolia
165	<i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i> cv.	Chinese (Saucer) Magnolia
166	<i>Mahonia aquifolia</i> cv.	Oregon Grape
167	<i>Malus spp. and</i> cv.	Flowering Crabapple
168	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> cv.	Miscanthus grass
169	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	Bayberry
170	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Heavenly Bamboo
171	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Sour (Black) Gum

No.	Botanical Name	Common Name
172	<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Japanese Spurge
173	<i>Paeonia hybrid cv.</i>	Peony
174	<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>	Boston Ivy
175	<i>Pelargonium x hortorum cv.</i>	Zonal Geranium
176	<i>Pennisetum ruppelia</i>	Fountain Grass
177	<i>Petunia x hybrida cv.</i>	Petunia
178	<i>Philodendron scandens oxycardium</i>	Heartleaf Philodendron
179	<i>Phlox paniculate</i>	Garden Phlox
180	<i>Phlox subulata cv.</i>	Moss Pink
181	<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce
182	<i>Picea pungens cv.</i>	Colorado (Blue) Spruce
183	<i>Pieris japonica</i>	Lily-of-the-Valley Bush
184	<i>Pinus mugo</i>	Mugo Pine
185	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Eastern White Pine
186	<i>Pinus thunbergiana</i>	Japanese Black Pine
187	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	London Planetree
188	<i>Poa pratensis cv.</i>	Kentucky Bluegrass
189	<i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i>	Southern Yew
190	<i>Potentilla fruticosa cv.</i>	Shrubby Cinquefoil
191	<i>Prunus laurocerasus cv.</i>	Cherry Laurel
192	<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	Kwanzan Japanese Flowering Cherry
193	<i>Pyracantha coccinea cv.</i>	Firethorn
194	<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak
195	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak

No.	Botanical Name	Common Name
196	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak
197	<i>Rhododendron Hybrid</i>	Exbury Hybrid Azalea
198	<i>Rhododendron x catawbiense</i>	Catawba Hybrid Rhododendron
199	<i>Rosa spp.</i>	Landscape/Shrub Rose cv.
200	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	Black-eyed Susan
201	<i>Salvia nemorosa cv.</i>	Meadow Sage
202	<i>Sedum spp.</i>	Sedum
203	<i>Spiraea x bumalda</i>	Bumalda Spirea
204	<i>Syringa vulgaris cv.</i>	Common Lilac
205	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald Cypress
206	<i>Taxus spp. and cv.</i>	Yew
207	<i>Thuja occidentalis cv.</i>	American Arborvitae
208	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Littleleaf Linden
209	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Canadian Hemlock
210	<i>Verbena x hybrida cv.</i>	Garden Verbena
211	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	American Cranberrybush Viburnum
212	<i>Viburnum x burkwoodii</i>	Burkwood Viburnum
213	<i>Vinca minor cv.</i>	Periwinkle
214	<i>Viola x wittrockiana cv.</i>	Pansy
215	<i>Weigela florida</i>	Weigelia
216	<i>Wisteria sinensis cv.</i>	Chinese Wisteria
217	<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	Adam's Needle

Pests, Disorders and Beneficial Insects Identification

No.	Item Name
Pests	
218	Aphid
219	Bagworm
220	Borer
221	Leafhopper
222	Leaf Miner
223	Scale
224	Spider Mite
225	Snail/Slug
226	Tick* New 2025
227	Whitefly
228	White Grub
Diseases	
229	Anthrachnose
230	Apple Scab
231	Black Spot
232	Botrytis
233	Canker
234	Cedar-Apple Rust
235	Crown Gall
236	Fire blight
237	Powdery Mildew
238	Root Rot

No.	Item Name
Weeds	
239	Annual Bluegrass
240	Broadleaf Plantain
241	Buckhorn Plantain
242	Chickweed
243	Clovers
244	Crabgrass
245	Dandelion
246	Henbit
247	Nutsedge
248	Oxalis
249	Purslane
250	Poison Ivy* New 2025
Physiological Problems	
251	Frost/Freeze Injury
252	Iron Deficiency
253	Leaf Scorch (drought/winter burn)
254	Nitrogen Deficiency
255	Pot-Bound Roots
256	String Trimmer Injury
257	2,4-D Injury
Beneficial Insects	
258	Lacewing
259	Lady Beetle
260	Paper Wasp
261	Praying Mantis
262	Spider

Potting Nursery Stock Practicum Scorecard

50 POINTS

Name _____		Member Number _____			
Chapter _____		State _____		Team Number _____	
	Strong evidence of skill 5-4 points	Moderate evidence of skill 3-2 points	Weak evidence of skill 1-0 points	Weight	Points Earned
Potting Process (34 points)					
Preparation of Plants Handles plants properly selecting for quality and uniformity, inspecting/pruning and grooming the damaged parts and pruning excess root length.	Plants are uniform in size and shape, properly handled, correct number selected, properly inspected, pruned and prepared for planting.	Plants are somewhat uniform in size and shape, somewhat properly handled, slightly off in correct number selected, failed to properly inspect, prune or prepare for planting.	Plants are not uniform in size and shape, poorly handled, correct number not selected, failed to properly inspect, prune or prepare for planting.	x 2	
Placement of Plants in Containers Plant centered and vertical at the proper depth. Roots carefully and properly spread and covered.	Holes are made prior to placing plant in soil, the entire root system is covered, leaving proper stem length visible and properly set.	Minor amount of roots are showing, planted slightly too deep or shallow and set somewhat correctly.	A large amount of roots are showing or plant stem is covered with soil.	x 2	
Media Filling and Settling Sufficient media added Media settled by bumping or hand firming Plant remains stable	Growing media is filled to the inner lip of the pot, properly settled, stabilizing the plant in the container.	Growing media is filled slightly too high or low, media was improperly settled leaving the plant slightly unstable.	Growing media is left very low or completely fills pot, media was improperly settled leaving the plant unstable.	x 2	
	2 points	1 points	0 points	Weight	Points Earned
Labeling of Completed Units Legibly labeled with the plant (variety) name and date	Legibly labeled with date planted, plant name, and cultivar.	Somewhat legibly labeled with some but not all information required.	Illegible or no label present or labeled with incorrect information.	x 1	
Safety Practices Applied Safety practices followed with proper cutting technique and tools stowed. Minimal clutter/good organization in work area	Followed safety practices - properly closing tools, using proper cutting technique, and maintaining work area.	Followed most safety practices, - properly closing tools, using proper cutting technique, and maintaining work area fairly well.	Failed to follow safety practices, - properly closing tools and using proper cutting technique, the work area needs to be more organized.	x 1	
Potting Productivity and Response to Questions (16 points)					
Note: 6 points for questions					
	10-7 points	6-4 points	3-0 points	Weight	Points Earned
Quantity & Quality Overall quality, uniformity, and number of units completed	Required number of units completed; final product uniform, materials upright, clean/neat, commercially acceptable	Approximately 2/3 completed; final product moderately uniform, materials upright, clean/neat, generally acceptable	Less than 2/3 of units completed; final product not uniform, materials vary in condition, generally non-commercial condition	X 1	
	6-5 points	4 - 2 points	1-0 points	Weight	Points Earned
Response to Questions	Answered questions correctly	Answered some questions correctly	Did not or incorrectly answered questions.	X 1	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 50 POSSIBLE					

Judge's Name _____

Judge's Signature _____

Date _____

Propagating Nursery Stock Practicum Scorecard

50 POINTS

Name		Member Number			
Chapter		State		Team Number	
	Strong evidence of skill 5-4 points	Moderate evidence of skill 3-2 points	Weak evidence of skill 1-0 points	Weight	Earned
Propagation Process (34 points)					
Removal of Cuttings Selects best quality uniform stock; Clean cuts at appropriate lengths	Best stock selected and clean cuts made at appropriate length	Most stock selected is of appropriate quality and mostly clean cuts made close to appropriate length.	Cutting stock is of poor quality with poorly made cuts of an incorrect length.	x 1	
Preparation of Cuttings Angled or wounded basal cuts used in correctly prepared cuttings; correctly placed in relation to nodes. Cutting/buds not damaged.	Cuttings are correctly prepared with angled or wounded basal cuts without damage to the cutting or the buds.	Cuttings are mostly correctly prepared with angled or wounded basal cuts with minimal damage to the cutting or the buds.	Cuttings are incorrectly prepared with damage to the cutting or the buds.	x 2	
	7-5 points	4-2 points	1-0 points	Weight	Earned
Application of Proper Hormone Sufficient applied and excess removed; Hormone kept clean.	Clean hormone applied in sufficient amounts with excess removed from cutting.	Clean hormone applied without removing excess from cutting.	Failed to keep hormone clean and applied sparingly.	1	
	8-6 points	5-3 points	2-0 points	Weight	Earned
Placement of Cuttings in Media Proper medium depth, as applicable; Media furrow cut and closed; Proper sticking depth; Efficient row and cutting spacing.	Cuttings are placed at the proper depth in medium with furrow cut and closed; Cuttings are placed in efficient rows and cutting spacing.	Cuttings are mostly placed at the proper depth in medium with furrow cut and closed; Most cuttings are placed in efficient rows and cutting spacing.	Few or no cuttings are placed at the proper depth in medium with furrow cut and closed; Cutting rows or poor and spacing inappropriate.	1	
	2 points	1 points	0 points	Weight	Earned
Labeling of Completed Units Legibly labeled with the plant (variety) name and date	Legibly labeled with date planted, plant name, and cultivar.	Somewhat legibly labeled with some but not all information required.	Illegible or no label present or labeled with incorrect information.	x 1	2
Safety Practices Applied Safety practices followed with proper cutting technique and tools stowed. Minimal clutter/good organization in work area	Followed safety practices - properly closing tools, using proper cutting technique, and maintaining work area.	Followed most safety practices, - properly closing tools, using proper cutting technique, and maintaining work area fairly well.	Failed to follow safety practices, - properly closing tools and using proper cutting technique, the work area needs to be more organized.	x 1	2
Propagation Productivity and Response to Questions (16 points)					
Note: 6 points for questions					
	10-7 points	6-4 points	3-0 points	Weight	Earned
Quality of Units Completed • Overall quality and uniformity of lot	Final product presented to the judge with plants upright, pot clean, and in sellable condition	Final product presented to the judge with plants upright, pot clean, and in sellable condition	Final product presented to judge in non-sellable condition	X 1	
	6-5 points	4 - 2 points	1-0 points	Weight	Earned
Response to Questions	Answered questions correctly	Answered some questions correctly	Did not or incorrectly answered questions.	X 1	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 50 POSSIBLE					

Judge's Name

Judge's Signature

Date

Judges please award points as whole numbers only, no fractions

Team Activity Cooperation/Teamwork Rubric

50 POINTS

Chapter

State

Team Number

Indicator	Very strong evidence of skill is present 5-4 points	Moderate evidence of skill is present 3-2 points	Weak evidence of skill is present 1-0 points	Weight	Points Earned
Understanding of task(s) assigned	Clearly all members show understanding of the assigned task(s).	Two to three members show understanding of the assigned task(s).	One member shows understanding of assigned task(s).	X 2	
Established team leadership role	One member seemed to assume leadership and others cooperated.	One member seemed to assume leadership.	No leadership role(s) were established.	X 2	
Agreement reached among team members on who will do which skills.	All four members have task responsibilities outlined and defined.	Two or three members have task responsibilities outlined and defined.	One member has have task responsibilities outlined and defined.	X 2	
A plan is made on how to complete tasks if difficulties arise.	Team discussed who would assist whom to make sure tasks are completed.	Leader of the team assigns who will help others complete tasks.	No plan is made for assisting others to complete tasks.	X 2	
Willingness to help others in accomplishing task	All members willing to assist others.	Three members willing to assist others.	Two or less members willing to assist others.	X 2	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 50 POSSIBLE					

Judge's Name

Judge's Signature

Date

Verbal Customer Assistance Rubric

50 POINTS

Name	Member Number
Chapter	State Team Number

Indicator	Very strong evidence of skill is present 5-4 points	Moderate evidence of skill is present 3-2 points	Weak evidence of skill is present 1-0 points	Points Possible	Points Earned
First impression	Individual identifies themselves with a good first impression.	Individual mostly identifies themselves with a good first impression.	Individual poorly identifies themselves with a good first impression.	5	
Personal rapport	Individual asks questions and utilizes information from answers in an attempt to build personal rapport.	Individual mostly asks questions and utilizes information from answers in an attempt to build personal rapport.	Individual poorly asks questions and utilizes information from answers in an attempt to build personal rapport.	5	
Clarifying questions	Individual asks questions to learn about the customer's situation and to confirm preliminary customer information.	Individual mostly asks questions to learn about the customer's situation and to confirm preliminary customer information.	Individual poorly asks questions to learn about the customer's situation and to confirm preliminary customer information.	5	
Needs and wants	Individual confirmed and discovered customer needs and wants.	Individual mostly confirmed and discovered customer needs and wants.	Individual poorly confirmed and discovered customer needs and wants.	5	
Features and benefits	Individual applied features and benefits of their product to the customer's needs/wants.	Individual mostly applied features and benefits of their product to the customer's needs/wants.	Individual poorly applied features and benefits of their product to the customer's needs/wants.	5	
Matching needs and wants	Individual allows customer to participate in matching their wants/needs to the product features.	Individual mostly allows customer to participate in matching their wants/needs to the product features.	Individual poorly allows customer to participate in matching their wants/needs to the product features.	5	
Trial close	Individual uses appropriate technique to confirm customer understanding.	Individual mostly uses appropriate technique to confirm customer understanding.	Individual poorly uses appropriate technique to confirm customer understanding.	5	
Objections	Student listens and clarifies customers objections and discusses the features/benefits of the product information to address the customers objections.	Student mostly listens and clarifies customers objections and discusses the features/benefits of the product information to address the customers objections.	Student poorly listens and clarifies customers objections and discusses the features/benefits of the product information to address the customers objections.	5	
Close transaction	Student closes or attempts to close the transaction.	Student mostly closes or attempts to close the transaction.	Student poorly closes or attempts to close the transaction.	5	
Active listening	Individual actively listens to comments and answers from the customer.	Individual mostly listens to comments and answers from the customer.	Individual poorly listens to comments and answers from the customer.	5	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 50 POSSIBLE					

Judge's Name	Judge's Signature	Date
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Nursery/Landscape Team Skills Challenge

400 POINTS

The Team Skills Challenge should be completed in 45 minutes valued at 400 points. Each skill may take up to 20 minutes to complete. It is the responsibility of the team to determine how to split their team to complete the challenges presented within the rotation.

Chapter	State	Team Number
A.	Score =	points of possible
B.	Score =	points of possible
C.	Score	points of possible
D.	Score	points of possible
E.	Score	points of possible
F.	Score	points of possible
G.	Score	points of possible
H.	Score	points of possible
Total Points		of 400 Points Possible

Judge's Name

Judge's Signature

Date

Skill Number	Skill Title	Page	Points
1	Plant Layout	17	100
2	Basic Program Controller	18	100
3	Irrigation Zone Installation and Repair	19	100
4	Line Trimmer	20	25
5	Chainsaw	21	50
6	Edger	22	25
7	Power Blower	23	25
8	Surveying Instrument	24	100
9	Push Mower	25	50
10	ZTR Mower	26	50
11	Intermediate Walk-Behind Mower	27	50
12	Sod Installation	28	100
13	Tree Planting	29	100
14	Grading and Drainage	30	100
15	Paver Installation	31	100
16	Skid Steer Loader Operation	32	50
17	Pruning	33	100
18	Fertilizer Application	34	50
19	Service Receipt	35	50
20	Wall Installation	36	100
21	Shrub/Perennial Installation	37	100

Skills Event 1

PLANT LAYOUT SCORECARD

Name(s)

State

Team Number

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Plant placed within 6 inches +/- of correct placement (5 points each)	20	
Plant faced properly (5 points each)	20	
Plant handled properly (5 points each)	10	
Correct Viewpoint	5	
Explain Plant Care – water, fertilizer, pruning/dead heading requirements	5	
Safely and properly followed lifting procedures (5 pts per student)	10	
Safety glasses worn (5 pts per student)	10	
Gloves worn	10	
Completed Design	10	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 100 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name

Judge's Signature

Date[Return to Skills list](#)

Skills Event 2

BASIC PROGRAM CONTROLLER SCORECARD

Name(s)

State

Team Number

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Initial Programming		
Set to current day	5	
Set to current time	5	
Clear other programs of everything previously set up	5	
Irrigation Programming as directed		
Station (zone) 1 & 3Program A	10	
Station (zone) 2 & 4Program B	10	
Start time: for Programs A & B	10	
All zones will be watered on designated days	5	
Manual Operation		
Manually activate station as directed	10	
Installation of Zone Valve		
Wired correctly into the controller	20	
Installed in proper location per design	10	
Wire nuts tight	10	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 100 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name

Judge's Signature

Date

[Return to Skills list](#)

Skills Event 3

IRRIGATION ZONE INSTALLATION AND REPAIR SCORECARD

Name(s) _____

State _____

Team Number _____

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Properly Repair Lateral Break		
Removed damaged section of pipe	5	
Removed any burrs or rough edges and cleaned surface	5	
Applied primer and cement properly and cleaned up excess glue	5	
Fittings to be properly set or extended	10	
Installation of Irrigation Zone		
Pipe cut to proper length +/- 1 inch (5 points deducted for each error)	20	
Proper fitting used (5 points deducted for each error)	15	
Heads set in proper location	10	
Heads adjusted properly (5 points each)	15	
Safety Procedures		
Eye protection used (5 points per student)	10	
Gloves used while cutting pipe and gluing	5	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 100 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name _____

Judge's Signature _____

Date _____

[Return to Skills list](#)

Skills Event 4

LINE TRIMMER SCORECARD

Name(s) _____

State _____

Team Number _____

Criteria	Point Possible	Points Earned
Pre-Operation Check		
Checked air filter and explained	2	
Checked fuel level and filled on hard surface	3	
Equipment Operation		
Installed trimmer line into Trimmer Head	4	
Demonstrated how to start engine with Trimmer on ground	2	
Demonstrated how to trim around posts without hitting post	5	
Safety Procedures		
Ear protection used	3	
Eye protection used	3	
Avoided pedestrian traffic while trimming <i>(Judge is pedestrian)</i>	3	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 25 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name _____

Judge's Signature _____

Date _____

[Return to Skills list](#)

Skills Event 5

CHAINSAW SCORECARD

Name(s) _____

State _____

Team Number _____

Criteria	Points Possible	Point Earned
Pre-Operation Check		
Located and checked air filter	3	
Adjusted chain tension with gloves on	6	
Checked bar oil level and explained its purpose	5	
Demonstrated fueling of tank with proper fuel	2	
Equipment Operation		
Demonstrated how to start engine, choke and set chain brake with saw on the ground	6	
Stabilized log before cutting	3	
Demonstrated how to cut a log on a saw buck	5	
Safety Procedures (All PPE must be on before attempting this event)		
Ear protection used	4	
Eye protection used	4	
Chaps used	4	
Hard hat used	4	
Gloves used	4	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 50 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name _____

Judge's Signature _____

Date _____

[Return to Skills list](#)

Skills Event 6

EDGER SCORECARD

Name(s) _____

State _____

Team Number _____

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Pre-Operation Check		
Checked air filter	2	
Checked fuel level and filled on a hard surface	3	
Changed edger blade	3	
Equipment Operation		
Demonstrated how to start engine with edger on the ground	2	
Demonstrated how to edge a sidewalk	5	
Safety Procedures		
Ear protection used	3	
Eye protection used	4	
Avoided pedestrian traffic (<i>Judge is pedestrian</i>)	3	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 25 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name _____

Judge's Signature _____

Date _____

[Return to Skills list](#)

Skills Event 7

POWER BLOWER SCORECARD

Name(s) _____

State _____

Team Number _____

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Pre-Operation Check		
Checked air filter and fan grill	2	
Checked fuel level and fill on a hard surface and discuss 2-cycle mix	3	
Equipment Operation		
Cleaned up hazards before blowing area	3	
Demonstrated how to start engine with blower on the ground	2	
Blew debris away from building	3	
Demonstrated proper clearing of the sidewalk	2	
Safety Procedures		
Ear protection used	3	
Eye protection used	2	
Dust mask used while blowing	2	
Avoided pedestrian traffic (<i>Judge is pedestrian</i>)	3	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 25 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name _____

Judge's Signature _____

Date _____

[Return to Skills list](#)

Skills Event 8

SURVEYING INSTRUMENT SCORECARD

Name(s) _____

State _____

Team Number _____

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Instrument Set Up and Knowledge		
Instrument set up	10	
Knowledge of builder's level, transit, laser	10	
Determining the benchmark (Point A)	10	
Elevation Readings and Calculations		
Point B	5	
Point C	5	
Point D	5	
Calculated the elevation difference between point A and C	7	
Calculated the elevation difference between point A and D	7	
Cut and Fill Problems		
Calculated the percent slope between A and D	15	
How much cut or fill would be needed between point A and D to create a ____ percent slope? Convert to inches of cut/fill.	10	
Explained the marks on a grade stake	5	
Explained the difference between an architect's and an engineer's story pole	6	
Properly dismantled and stored equipment	5	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 100 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name _____

Judge's Signature _____

Date _____

[Return to Skills list](#)

Skills Event 9

PUSH MOWER SCORECARD

Name(s) _____

State _____

Team Number _____

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Pre-Start Procedures		
Checked oil level and air cleaner	5	
Changed mower blade	9	
Mower guard down or bag in place	5	
Adjusted mower height	5	
Equipment Operation		
Two times outside area	3	
Mowed around trees on left side of mower	3	
Safety Procedures		
Ear protection used	5	
Eye protection used	5	
Hazards were observed and cleaned up before mowing	5	
Avoided pedestrian traffic (<i>Judge is pedestrian</i>)	5	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 50 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name _____

Judge's Signature _____

Date _____

[Return to Skills list](#)

Skills Event 10

ZTR MOWER SCORECARD

Name(s)

State

Team Number

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Pre-Start Procedures		
Checked oil level	3	
Checked hydraulic system oil level check	2	
Checked air cleaner and grease fittings	3	
Checked Belts, pulleys, guards	3	
Adjusting mower height	4	
Equipment Operation		
Sat on mower before starting and attached seatbelt	6	
Two times outside area	3	
Mowed around trees on left side of mower	3	
Described three (3) point turn	3	
Safety Procedures		
Ear protection used	5	
Eye protection used	5	
Hazards were cleaned up before mowing	5	
Avoided pedestrian traffic (<i>Judge is pedestrian</i>)	5	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 50 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name

Judge's Signature

Date

[Return to Skills list](#)

Skills Event 11

INTERMEDIATE WALK-BEHIND MOWER SCORECARD

Name(s) _____

State _____

Team Number _____

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Pre-Start Procedures		
Checked oil level	4	
Checked hydraulic system oil level check	2	
Checked air cleaner and grease fittings	3	
Checked belts, pulleys, guards	3	
Adjusted mower height (physically change)	4	
Equipment Operation		
Started mower properly (demonstrate)	5	
Two times outside area (described while looking at a site design)	3	
Mowed around trees on left side of mower (described while looking at a site design)	3	
Described three (3) point turn	3	
Safety Procedures		
Eye protection used	5	
Ear protection used	5	
Cleaned up hazards before mowing	5	
Avoided pedestrian traffic (<i>Judge is pedestrian</i>)	5	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 50 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name _____

Judge's Signature _____

Date _____

[Return to Skills list](#)

Skills Event 12

SOD INSTALLATION SCORECARD

Name(s)

State

Team Number

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Graded area according to problem description	10	
Rolled area (pre sod) according to problem description	5	
Calculated and weighed proper amount of fertilizer	6	
Applied fertilizer evenly (<i>round down to the nearest pound</i>)	6	
Sodded strips adjacent to edges full width	5	
Staggered seams on sod rolls	8	
Knitted seams tightly	5	
Made cuts accurately, used proper tool, i.e. spade, knife	5	
Irrigation heads/valve box visible	8	
Rolled sod after installation	7	
Explained watering of new sod	10	
Eye protection used	10	
Demonstrated proper lifting techniques	5	
<i>Additional safety violations: Deduct 3 points for each observed safety violation such as tools used improperly, etc. (Maximum deduction – 15 points)</i>		
Completed sodding the box	10	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 100 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name

Judge's Signature

Date

[Return to Skills list](#)

Skills Event 13

TREE PLANTING SCORECARD

Name(s) _____

State _____

Team Number _____

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Hole Dimension According to Detail		
Width	10	
Depth	10	
Planted According to Detail		
Root pruning	5	
Handled correctly	5	
Soil berm	5	
Tamped properly	5	
Mulched properly	5	
Explained watering method for new tree	15	
Stake and Wire tree according to specifications sheet		
Stakes at correct depth	5	
Stakes straight and plumb	5	
Stakes placed per prevailing wind	5	
Straps installed at correct height	5	
Safety Procedures		
Eye protection used	5	
Proper lifting techniques were used	5	
Proper use of gloves while staking the tree	5	
Wore hard hat while staking the tree	5	
<i>Additional safety violations: Deduct 3 points for each observed safety violation, such as tools used improperly, etc.</i>		
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 100 POSSIBLES		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name _____

Judge's Signature _____

Date _____

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Skills Event 14

GRADING AND DRAINAGE SCORECARD

Name(s) _____

State _____

Team Number _____

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Resemblance to Scale Drawing of Sand Mound		
Top of mound at proper elevation	10	
Top of mound at proper location	10	
Elevation Points (3 different elevation points will be checked by judge)		
Point A	10	
Point B	10	
Point C	10	
Location and Elevation of Catch Basin		
Location	10	
Elevation	10	
Will the finished product drain?	15	
Safety Procedures		
Eye protection used	10	
Proper use of gloves	5	
<i>Additional Safety Violations: Deduct 3 points for each observed safety violation, such as tools used improperly, etc.</i>		
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 100 POSSIBLE		

Note: Measurements are in 1/10 scale.

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name _____

Judge's Signature _____

Date _____

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Skills Event 15

PAVER INSTALLATION SCORECARD

Name(s) _____

State _____

Team Number _____

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Procedure		
Set string line 90 degrees with the base line	10	
Installed soldier course along the edge	15	
Installed pavers per design issued	15	
Explain to the Judge the Steps Involved in Laying Pavers		
Pavers finished height per design	8	
Excavated a minimum of 6" for a solid base	3	
Created a 2 percent minimum slope	4	
Added base, compact no more than 4" at a time	3	
Base to be 6" beyond finished patio	5	
Installed sand and screed	8	
Installed edging	4	
Cut pavers and use of ear protection	5	
Sand swept and compacted	5	
Safety Procedure		
Eye protection used	5	
Gloves used	5	
Used proper lifting techniques	5	
Deduct 5 points for each safety violation (20 points maximum deductions)		
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 100 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name _____

Judge's Signature _____

Date _____

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Skills Event 16

SKID STEER LOADER SCORECARD

Name(s) _____

State _____

Team Number _____

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Checked oil level and hydraulic system oil level	4	
Checked tire pressure	3	
Checked fuel check	4	
Checked air filter check	3	
Checked grease fittings	4	
Proper mounting (entry) of loader using seatbelt and harness	4	
Proper exiting of loader	4	
Attaching front implements	4	
Safety glasses used	5	
Ear protection used	5	
Seat belt was used	5	
Discussed observing people and hazards	5	
<i>Note: Deduct 10 points for any safety violation with a maximum of 20 points deducted.</i>		

TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 50 POSSIBLE

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name _____

Judge's Signature _____

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Skills Event 17

PRUNING SCORECARD

Name(s)

State

Team Number

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Identified trunk, leader and lateral branches	15	
Properly used hand pruners on plants	10	
Properly used loppers on plants	10	
Demonstrated the 3-point cut method and provided rationale on a design	10	
Identified 3 appropriate cuts and proper tool to use	15	
Demonstrated how to start and handle gas-powered hedge shears	10	
Eye protection used	10	
Ear protection used	10	
Gloves used	5	
Chaps used while shearing	5	
<i>Note: Deduct 10 points for any safety violation — maximum of 20 points deducted.</i>		
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 100 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name

Judge's Signature

Date

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Skills Event 18

FERTILIZER APPLICATION SCORECARD

Name(s)

State

Team Number

CRITERIA	Points Possible	Points Earned
Checked equipment spinner for proper operation before filling	5	
Adjusted spreader setting as instructed	2	
Measured the proper amount of fertilizer +/- 5 percent	13	
Filled spreader off of turf area	5	
No fertilizer spillage and spreader was closed prior to filling	5	
Opened spreader at appropriate time	5	
Spread fertilizer evenly	5	
Safety Procedures		
Eye protection used	5	
Gloves used	5	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 50 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name

Judge's Signature

Date

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Skills Event 19

SERVICE RECEIPT SCORECARD

Name(s)

State

Team Number

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Recorded crew time properly per scenario provided	10	
Checked off all services rendered	5	
Recorded actual pre-emergent herbicide and fertilizer calculations	5	
Recorded actual mulch calculation (<i>in cubic yards</i>)	5	
Recorded actual flats installed	5	
Recorded comments about irrigation head	5	
Explained annual care to client	10	
Crew leader signed off on service receipt	5	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 50 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name

Judge's Signature

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Skills Event 20

WALL INSTALLATION SCORECARD

Name(s)

State

Team Number

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Establish level base	10	
Installed wall proper length	10	
Installed wall proper height	10	
Set cap stone properly	10	
Staggered seams on wall (face of wall is flat)	10	
Used proper cuts in wall	5	
Excavated a minimum of 6" for a solid base (in keeping with mid-west specifications), explained	5	
Added base, compacted no more than 4" at a time, explained	5	
Base to be 6" beyond finished wall, explained	5	
Cut wall stone and used ear protection, explained	5	
Used glue/mortar as needed (simulated while building the wall), demonstrated	5	
Eye protection used	5	
Gloves used	5	
<i>Note: Deduct 5 points for any safety violation — maximum of 20 points deducted, i.e. improper lifting, tool handling.</i>		
Finished the wall	10	

TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 100 POSSIBLE

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name

Judge's Signature

Date

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Skills Event 21

SHRUB/PERENNIAL INSTALLATION SCORECARD

Name(s)

State

Team Number

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Plants placed within 2" +/- of correct placement (5 points each)	15	
Plants faced properly to a maximum of 15 points (5 points each)	15	
Plant handled properly to a maximum of 15 points (5 points each)	15	
Correct viewpoint	5	
Explained proper plant care (watering- 5 points and pruning - 5 points)	10	
Mulch applied properly	10	
Safely and properly followed lifting procedures	10	
Safety glasses and gloves used	10	
Finished planting per design	10	
TOTAL POINTS EARNED OUT OF 100 POSSIBLE		

Judge's Comments

Judge's Name

Judge's Signature

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