

FFA NURSERY JUDGING CONTEST
General Knowledge Test

1. Most of the nitrogen required for a fescue lawn in Kentucky should be applied in the:
A. Spring B. Fall C. Summer D. Winter
2. Which makeup of components best describes a “loam” soil?
A. Sand and clay
B. Silt and clay
C. Sand and silt
D. Sand, silt, and clay
3. Lime added to soil results in which of the following reactions?
A. Raises soil pH - increases alkalinity
B. Lowers soil pH - increases acidity
C. Has a neutral effect on soil pH
4. Which of the following trees would not be recommended for the home lawn because of its soft, brittle wood, and the tendency to form surface roots?
A. Silver (water) maple
B. Green ash
C. Red oak
5. When should summer flowering shrubs such as Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) be pruned?
A. Fall, after flowering.
B. Summer, in active growth
C. Spring, while they are dormant.
6. Topping mature shade trees makes them more vigorous and the new growth healthier.
A. True
B. False
7. How many pounds of actual nitrogen would be in a 50- pound bag of 10-10-10 fertilizer?
A. 5 pounds B. 50 pounds C. 10 pounds D. 20 pounds
8. The pigment that gives plants their green color and in the presence of sunlight converts carbon dioxide and water into sugar is known as:
A. Enzyme B. Hormone C. Chlorophyll

9. Rhododendrons and azaleas grow best in this type of soil:
- A. alkaline B. neutral C. acidic
10. If a customer selects a shrub marked regularly at \$20.00 which is on “special” at a 20% discount, and there is a 6% sales tax, what should the customer be charged (round off to the nearest 5 cents)?
- A. \$16.00 B. \$21.20 C. \$16.95 D. \$15.25
11. A plant that completes its life cycle over two growing seasons is called:
- A. Annual B. Biennial C. Perennial
12. What is required if a deep water garden or swimming pool is installed in a landscape?
- A. A fence to restrict access to the water feature
B. A warning sign to indicate a drowning hazard
C. Surveillance equipment
13. Which of the following is a broadleafed evergreens?
- A. Southern magnolia
B. Japanese maple
C. Eastern red cedar
D. All of these
14. Crabgrass, a summer annual lawn weed, is best controlled in Kentucky by applying a preemergence herbicide in the:
- A. Late winter/ Early spring B. Summer C. Fall
15. Japanese beetles are most likely to appear as adults in the landscape in which season?
- A. Fall
B. Spring
C. Summer
16. A kind of pesticide that kills an insect or weed when sprayed directly on the pest is known as a _____ pesticide.
- A. Contact B. Systemic C. Fumigant

17. The part of the soil horizon near the top which is most productive for plant growth is called the:
- A. Subsoil
 - B. Parent material
 - C. Topsoil
18. Most hardy, spring flowering bulbs are planted in the:
- A. Spring
 - B. Summer
 - C. Fall
 - D. Winter
19. The upper portion (vegetative/leafy system) of a grafted plant is known as the:
- A. Cambium
 - B. Stock
 - C. Scion
20. The most often used type of cutting in the nursery business is the:
- A. Leaf cutting
 - B. Root cutting
 - C. Stem cutting
21. Mushrooms belong to which type of organism?
- A. Bacteria
 - B. Fungi
 - C. Viruses
 - D. Insects
22. Geraniums are prone to develop many soil-borne diseases in the landscape. A useful practice for growing geraniums would be to:
- A. Always use new potting soil and clean pots each year
 - B. If grown in the ground, move plants to new locations every few years
 - C. Install plants on slightly raised beds to improve drainage
 - D. All of the above are useful
23. Water moves from the roots to other parts of the plant in tissue called the _____.
- A. Phloem
 - B. Xylem
 - C. Veins
 - D. Arteries
24. To preserve the germination ability of most seeds, store them in a:
- A. Warm, dry condition
 - B. Cool, dry condition
 - C. Cool wet condition
 - D. Warm wet condition

25. Two basic types of pruning cuts are heading-back and thinning-out. Which of the following is true about these cuts?
- A. Thinning cuts will result in a more open appearance and less crowded new growth on the plant than heading cuts.
 - B. Heading cuts are made close to the branch tip, many buds are left, and much new growth from remaining buds will usually be produced.
 - C. Heading cuts usually remove entire branches.
 - D. Both A and B are correct.

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Answer key

1. B

2. D

3. A

4. A

5. C

6. B

7. A

8. C

9. C

10. C

11. B

12. A

13. A

14. A

15. C

16. A

17. C

18. C

19. C

20. C

21. B

22. D

23. B

24. B

25. D