

Judging

Conference 2020

**NACTA**

**Horticulture Judging Contest Official Rules**

Thursday, April 2nd

8:00 a.m. – Gross Coliseum

**Contest Director:**

Mr. Don Benjamin

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**Teams and Eligibility**

1. All contestants must be currently enrolled in a two-year or a four-year institution and pursuing an undergraduate degree. Two-year and four-year institutions will compete in separate divisions, but contest rules and components are the same for both divisions. Separate awards will be made for both team and overall individuals in each division.

2. Each school may enter one team consisting of four (4) officially-registered members and team members must be designated prior to the start of the contest. All four members will be eligible for individual awards, but only the top three (3) scores will be used for the team score. If only three members are registered for a team, all three scores will count.

3. Institutions may enter as many additional official contestants as they want in addition to the official team. Additional contestants will compete for individual awards, but their scores will not count toward the team score. Additional contestants will pay the full registration fee. If not enough members are present from an institution to comprise a team, attendees may compete as officially registered individual contestants. . 4. A student may not compete in this contest if he/she has participated as a scored, official contestant in a national NACTA Horticulture contest in any previous year in the same division. If he/she previously competed in the two-year college division, he/she may compete once more in the four-year college division.

**Event Description:**

Teams and individual participants will compete in five parts of the contest: General Knowledge Exam, Plant Identification, Horticulture Tools and Pest Identification, Plant Judging, and Problem Solving. The following outline provides an overview of the content and the points possible for each component.

**Part 1: General Knowledge Exam – 100 points**

The general knowledge exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. The exam will cover all aspects of horticulture except floral design.

**Part 2: Plant Identification – 100 points**

This portion of the contest will consist of 50 live plant specimens. Plants will be selected from the attached 2017 NACTA Horticulture Plant Identification List. Contestants will identify specimens from a numbered list provided that will include both common and scientific names.

**Part 3: Horticulture Tools and Pest Identification – 100 points**

This portion of the contest will consist of 50 specimens that will primarily be presented as live samples, but photos may be used if needed. A hand-lens may be used. All specimens will be selected from the attached 2017 NACTA Horticulture Tools and Pests List. Contestants will identify samples from numbered list provided.

**Part 5: Problem Solving – 50 points**

This portion of the contest will consist of 5 questions that are designed to evaluate competitors’ ability to solve horticultural problems in categories such as cost analysis of greenhouse or nursery crop production, reading a landscape drawing and calculating cost of materials and supplies, and solving other basic horticulture problems such as fertilizer calculations. A simple calculator will be allowed.

**Scoring and Contest Rules:**

1. Each participant will complete all five parts of the contest for a possible total score of 350 points per contestant. All four team members’ individual scores will be combined for a possible total of 1,600 points per team.

2. In the event of a tie, scores on the General Knowledge Exam followed by the Plant Identification component followed by the Horticulture Tools and Pest Identification component will be used to break the tie.

3. Contestants will not be allowed to touch or handle any plant material during any portion of the competition. An infraction of this policy is sufficient to result in team elimination from the competition.

4. No electronic devices, including phones and smart watches, are allowed. A simple calculator may be used only during the Problem Solving component of the contest. A hand-lens may be used during the Horticulture Tools and Pest Identification component of the contest.