



LOUISIANA FFA

CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT
NURSERY LANDSCAPE

Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event

Purpose:

The Nursery/ Landscape industry is a multifaceted collection of skills that are not unique to this industry.

Knowledge and training in as many horticultural areas as possible allows students to become a valuable member to future employers as well as making them highly employable.

Knowledge of the identity of plant materials is essential to an appreciation of use and culture of plants for beautification of the home, grounds, and public areas. Proper identification of a plant is precluded by lack of knowledge of the characteristics of that plant pertaining to growth and flowering habits and specific characteristics of leaves, stems, and flowers. Positive identification of plants is valid only when the Latin name is used. Common names vary from one area to another and cannot be considered positive identification. In order to make this event as nearly authoritative as possible and of utmost value in increasing the student's knowledge of Nursery/Landscape plants, live plant materials, supplemented by slides and photographs, should be used for study and will be used for identification in the area and state contests. An elementary study and short description of 70 selected nursery/landscape plants adaptable to all areas of Louisiana is designed to meet the requirements of the FFA entrants in the area and state events. Serious and diligent study of this career development event will give the student an opportunity to learn the material required to become a Louisiana Certified Nursery Landscape Professional and prepare them to take the Louisiana Licensed Landscape Horticulturist exam. (Adopted 2011)

Objectives:

1. To develop students' skills in identifying common Louisiana landscape plants using both the botanical and common names. *(Adopted 2011)*
2. To develop students' knowledge of the principles and skills involved in plant nomenclature and classification, plant growth requirements, soil characteristics, plant propagation, basic entomology, plant pathology, pest management, non chemical pest control, weed science, turf management, ground covers, annuals and perennials, and rose culture in Louisiana. *(Adopted 2011)*
3. To develop students' knowledge of the principles and techniques of the retail nursery and garden centers, landscape installation and maintenance, arboriculture, and landscape contracting. *(Adopted 2011)*
4. To develop student's ability to identify equipment and supplies that is commonly used in the Nursery/Landscape industry. *(Adopted 2011)*

Rules and Regulations:

1. All general rules apply except where indicated in the specific rules of this event.
2. A team will consist of four members. The team score will be calculated by adding all four scores together.
3. The event will have two phases on the area level and 3 phases on the state level.

Phase I: Identification of Plant Materials:

Competitors will identify 50 randomly selected items from the most current version of the National FFA Nursery/Landscape CDE Plant, Pests, Weeds, and Beneficial Insect lists approved by the State Nursery/Landscape committee. The competitors will write and shade in the corresponding reference number on the Scantron scorecard. Thirty seconds per plant will be allowed in this phase of the contest. Eight points per correct answer will be awarded. Total for this phase will be 400 points. Photos or actual samples of pests and beneficial insects are acceptable. (Adopted 2024)

Phase II: General Knowledge:

The State FFA Executive Secretary or their designee will generate an objective test of 50 questions. The questions will be randomly selected from a test bank generated from questions taken from the last five (5) years of the National FFA Nursery/Landscape CDE tests. Questions will be rotated off as new tests become available from National FFA. All tests and test banks shall be published on the LAFFA website. A new test shall be generated for each event. Questions will be worth five points each. The total for this phase will be 250 points. (Adopted 2011, Revised 2018) Each participant will be allowed 30 minutes to complete this phase of the event. (Adopted 2025)

Phase III: (State Only) Landscape Estimating (100 Points)

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 and scratch paper will be provided. There will be objective questions about the landscape plan. Participants will record their answers using

a scan form. Questions requiring an architect and engineers scale should not be used. Calculators allowed—battery operated, non-programmable and non-scientific (basic five function only). No other calculators can be used during the event. *(Adopted 2024)* Each participant will be allowed 30 minutes to complete this phase of the event. (Adopted 2025)

4. Contestants may not have the Identification Card in their possession during the examination.
5. The plants used in the event will be those plants as identified by the scientific names only. The scientific name is the basis for all plant identification and selection.
6. Only live plants (must be planted and have roots) may be used for the identification phase (*Revised 99*) at the area and state contests. (*Revised 08*)
7. The four highest scoring teams in each area will represent their respective areas in the state event.
8. The written exam, consisting of fifty (50) challenging objective type questions, shall be randomly generated by the State FFA Executive Secretary or their designee from a test bank created using questions taken from the last five (5) years of the National FFA Nursery/Landscape CDE tests. Questions will be rotated off as new tests become available from National FFA. A new 50 question test will rotate onto the test bank and the oldest of the 5 will rotate off of the test bank each year for a total of 250 questions. (*Adopted 08*) (*Revised 2011, 2018*)
9. The bank of test questions may be edited yearly to improve the quality of the questions (i.e. fix errors, etc.) Updates shall be highlighted and posted on the state FFA and LATA websites prior to the spring events. (*Adopted 08*)
10. The official sources for plant reference on this CDE shall be
 - a. The latest edition of The Louisiana Manual for the Environmental Horticulture Industry (*Revised 2011*)
 - b. The most current National FFA Nursery/Landscape CDE manual (*Revised 2011*)
 - c. Identification, Selection, and Use of Southern Plants for Landscape Design, by Neil Odenwald and James Turner. It is available from Claitor's Books (www.claitors.com). (*Adopted 08*)
11. The new plant identification scorecard will be designed so that every plant is assigned a three digit number. Each student will write and shade in the corresponding plant number on the Scantron scorecard. (*Adopted 08, Revised 2018*)
13. Tie Breakers: (apply in the order listed)
 - a. The highest score on the general knowledge exam (total score for team)
 - b. The highest score on the identification phase (total score for team)