

# Nursery and Landscape

A Special Project of the South Dakota FFA Foundation

**Important Note:** Please thoroughly read the General Rules at the beginning of this handbook for complete rules and procedures that are relevant to all South Dakota FFA Career Development Events.

## Purpose

The purpose of the Nursery and Landscape Career Development Event is to promote career interest, encourage proficiency development, and recognize excellence in individuals through this event which includes all aspects of the nursery and landscape industry.

## Objectives

- To apply nursery and landscape principles and practices as they impact residential, commercial, public, and recreational applications.
- To 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.
- To demonstrate the ability to identify unhealthy plant conditions due to pests, nutritional/physiological disorders and mechanical/chemical injury.
- To 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.
- To demonstrate knowledge of the principles and techniques of landscape design and construction.
- To 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.
- To demonstrate knowledge of safety practices in nursery and landscape operations.

## Event Rules

Each team will be comprised of three or four members.

The top three individual scores will be used to determine the final team score.

## Event Format

The Nursery and Landscape CDE will consist of four (4) phases: identification of plant materials, identification of equipment and supplies, a practicum, and a general knowledge examination.

### Identification of Plant Materials – 250 points

Fifty (50) specimens will be displayed for participants to identify by their common names and Latin names.

Each specimen will be designated by a number. The appropriate number should be written in the space adjacent to the specimen's name on the identification form.

Five (5) points will be given for each specimen that is correctly identified.

Each participant will be allowed forty (40) minutes to complete this phase. In the CDE, most of the plant material will be dormant, but living plants or plant parts will be used for those plants customarily grown indoors in South Dakota.

No specimen may be touched or handled in any way. Any infraction of this policy will be cause to eliminate the entire team from the CDE.

### Identification of Equipment and Supplies – 250 points

Participants will identify fifty (50) items selected from the provided list.

Items may be presented as an intact specimen, photograph, or representative line drawing.

The appropriate number should be written in the space adjacent to the specimen's name on the identification form.

Five (5) points will be given for each specimen that is correctly identified.

Each participant will be allowed forty (40) minutes to complete this phase.

### Practicum – 200 points

The participant will be furnished with a landscape drawing and twenty (20) multiple-choice questions about the landscape drawing, such as:

- determine the cost of fencing cost
- of patio or number of yards of sod
- required.

Each answer has a value of ten (10) points.

The participant should furnish a ruler and a battery-operated calculator (if desired).

Forty (40) minutes will be allowed for this phase of the CDE.

### General Knowledge Examination – 300 points

Fifty (50) objective multiple-choice questions will be selected from the areas listed below.

Each participant will be allowed forty (40) minutes to complete this phase.

Each answer has a value of six (6) points.

This phase of the CDE will test the participant’s knowledge and understanding of the basic principles relating to the following areas of horticulture:

- Plant Materials
- Planting or Growing Media
- Diagnosis of Plant Disorders
- Materials such as Growth Regulators, Fertilizers, etc.
- Propagation
- Safety
- Cultural Instruction
- Landscape Design

### Scoring

	Points Possible
Identification of Plant Materials	250
Identification of Equipment and Supplies	250
Practicum	200
General Knowledge Examination	300
<b>Total Possible Individual Score</b>	<b>1000</b>
<b>Total Possible Team Score (3 participants)</b>	<b>3000</b>

### Tiebreakers

In the case of a team tie, the order to break the tie will be:

1. Total written exam score
2. Total identification score
3. Total practicum score

In the case of an individual tie, the order to break the tie will be:

1. Written exam score
2. Total identification score
3. Practicum score

### References

- A. Introductory Horticulture, Shry & Reily, Delmar Publishers.
- B. Landscaping Principles and Practices, Engles, Delmar Publishers.
- C. National FFA Core Catalog – Past CDE Materials