

# FNGLA Horticulture Landscape Maintenance Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

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- 1. Power raking is the term used for mechanical thatch removal in which grass?**
  - A. Bahia grass**
  - B. Bermuda grass**
  - C. Zoysia grass**
  - D. Fescue**
  
- 2. Adapted plants are selected to match site conditions such as**
  - A. pH, salts, winter cold, summer heat, moisture and drainage**
  - B. Only color and fragrance**
  - C. Only cost**
  - D. Only sun exposure**
  
- 3. What happens if we prune in winter?**
  - A. Growth accelerates**
  - B. No effect**
  - C. The growth flush will be delayed until the weather is warm enough for growth.**
  - D. Plants flower immediately**
  
- 4. Clippings should be removed after mowing.**
  - A. True**
  - B. False unless large clumps are left on the grass**
  - C. False in all cases**
  - D. Only in drought conditions**
  
- 5. Overwinter color through overseeding grasses?**
  - A. Bentgrass, bluegrass or ryegrass**
  - B. Bermuda grass**
  - C. Zoysia**
  - D. Tall fescue only**

- 6. What is the best rule on when you should mow grass?**
- A. Cut 1/3 off, if mowing your grass at 2 inches, you should mow before it reaches 3 inches.**
  - B. Always mow to 1 inch.**
  - C. Mow only when grass turns brown.**
  - D. Mow daily.**
- 7. Installing an efficient irrigation system during planning primarily contributes to which outcome?**
- A. Water efficiency**
  - B. Increased runoff**
  - C. Soil erosion**
  - D. Higher maintenance cost**
- 8. A 10' Ring of Responsibility should be extended when using which method of fertilizing?**
- A. When using liquid fertilizer**
  - B. When using organic compost**
  - C. When using foliar spray**
  - D. When using granular fertilizer without a shield**
- 9. Shoot pruning for root loss at transplanting is NOT recommended.**
- A. No, it is not recommended.**
  - B. Yes, it's recommended.**
  - C. It depends on the species.**
  - D. Only for large plants.**
- 10. Researchers have found that clipping clippings do not contribute to thatch.**
- A. Not enough evidence**
  - B. True**
  - C. False**
  - D. It depends on grass type**

## Answers

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1. A
2. A
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. A
7. A
8. D
9. A
10. B

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Power raking is the term used for mechanical thatch removal in which grass?**

- A. Bahia grass**
- B. Bermuda grass**
- C. Zoysia grass**
- D. Fescue**

Power raking is a dethatching method used on warm-season grasses that tend to build a thick thatch layer. Thatch is the layer of dead and living shoots, stems, and roots that accumulates between the soil surface and the green growth. A power rake uses powered blades to cut into this thatch and lift it out, improving air, water, and nutrient penetration to the crowns. Bahia grass commonly forms a noticeable thatch layer, and dethatching with a power rake is a typical technique used to remove that buildup and help the lawn recover and grow more vigorously. Fescue is a cool-season grass and generally doesn't rely on power raking as a routine practice, while Bermuda and Zoysia can be dethatched but the method is most often described in the context of Bahia.

**2. Adapted plants are selected to match site conditions such as**

- A. pH, salts, winter cold, summer heat, moisture and drainage**
- B. Only color and fragrance**
- C. Only cost**
- D. Only sun exposure**

Adapted plants are chosen to fit the actual growing conditions of the site. That means selecting species that can tolerate the soil chemistry (pH) and any salts present, endure the climate extremes the site experiences (winter cold and summer heat), and cope with the site's moisture and drainage patterns. When you pick plants that match these factors, they're more likely to establish quickly, stay healthy, and require less maintenance because they're suited to how much water the soil holds and how well drainage works, as well as to the temperature swings and soil nutrient availability the site presents. Focusing only on color and fragrance ignores whether a plant can survive in the site environment. Cost is about budget, not suitability to conditions. Sun exposure matters, but it's only one aspect; without compatible moisture, drainage, and temperature tolerance, even sun-loving plants can struggle.

**3. What happens if we prune in winter?**

- A. Growth accelerates**
- B. No effect**
- C. The growth flush will be delayed until the weather is warm enough for growth.**
- D. Plants flower immediately**

Winter pruning relies on the plant's dormancy. In cold weather many perennials and shrubs aren't actively growing, and their buds stay dormant until warmth returns. Pruning removes some wood and potential growth sites, but it doesn't trigger new growth out of dormancy. The plant must wait for warmer temperatures to break bud dormancy and begin active growth, so the new growth flush is delayed until conditions are warm enough for growth to resume. In short, you'll see new shoots come in with spring warmth rather than immediately after pruning in winter.

#### 4. Clippings should be removed after mowing.

- A. True
- B. False unless large clumps are left on the grass**
- C. False in all cases
- D. Only in drought conditions

Clippings management after mowing focuses on whether leaving or removing the clippings supports a healthy lawn. Fine, evenly distributed clippings break down quickly and return nutrients to the soil, helping fertilize the turf and reducing waste. Because of that, you don't need to bag clippings every time. They only should be removed if they form large clumps or mats on the grass, since those piles can smother underlying blades, block light, and promote disease or uneven growth. So saying clippings should be removed after mowing isn't universally true; it's best considered false unless there are substantial clumps left on the turf.

#### 5. Overwinter color through overseeding grasses?

- A. Bentgrass, bluegrass or ryegrass**
- B. Bermuda grass
- C. Zoysia
- D. Tall fescue only

Overwinter color is achieved by overseeding with cool-season grasses that stay green in cooler months. Bentgrass, bluegrass, and ryegrass fit this role because they establish quickly, tolerate winter cold, and provide a dense green cover when warm-season grasses (like bermudagrass or zoysia) go dormant. This keeps the lawn looking vibrant through winter. Warm-season grasses won't provide winter color since they lose color and go dormant in cold weather, and while tall fescue can offer winter color, the common and most effective overseed for this purpose is the mix of bentgrass, bluegrass, or ryegrass.

#### 6. What is the best rule on when you should mow grass?

- A. Cut 1/3 off, if mowing your grass at 2 inches, you should mow before it reaches 3 inches.**
- B. Always mow to 1 inch.
- C. Mow only when grass turns brown.
- D. Mow daily.

The key idea is to cut only a small portion of the leaf blade in one mowing—about one-third or less of its current height. This protects the grass from stress, helps it recover quickly, and keeps photosynthesis efficient for a denser, healthier lawn. If your grass is around two inches tall, heading off growth before it gets much taller keeps you within that one-third rule. For a blade around three inches tall, removing roughly one inch brings it back to about two inches, which is a safe reduction and avoids scalping. This approach balances keeping the turf evenly mowed with minimizing damage from cutting too much at once. Other choices are less good because mowing far shorter than needed (like to one inch) stresses or weakens the grass; waiting until the lawn turns brown indicates poor health and delayed maintenance; mowing every day is unnecessary and can waste effort while stressing the plants.

**7. Installing an efficient irrigation system during planning primarily contributes to which outcome?**

- A. Water efficiency**
- B. Increased runoff**
- C. Soil erosion**
- D. Higher maintenance cost**

Maximizing water efficiency is the aim when planning an irrigation system. By designing layouts that match each area's needs, you place the right irrigation type, set appropriate zones, and use efficient emitters or sprinkler heads with smart controls. This ensures water is delivered directly to the root zones, with minimal evaporation, wind drift, or overspray. Scheduling that considers climate, soil type, and plant needs further reduces waste, so you apply only what's necessary. When planning is done well, the system uses water efficiently and keeps plants healthy. Signs of poor planning—like runoff, erosion, or higher costs—come from misdesign or misuse, not from an efficient planning approach.

**8. A 10' Ring of Responsibility should be extended when using which method of fertilizing?**

- A. When using liquid fertilizer**
- B. When using organic compost**
- C. When using foliar spray**
- D. When using granular fertilizer without a shield**

The key idea is containment and drift control when applying fertilizer. Granular fertilizer can scatter, bounce, or drift with wind, especially if there's no shield on the spreader. Extending the Ring of Responsibility ensures stray granules stay within the intended area and don't reach nearby plants, sidewalks, or runoff pathways. Other methods don't pose the same exact drift risk from broadcast granules: liquids are usually applied with directed spray and containment, compost is incorporated into the soil, and foliar sprays target leaves with controlled droplets. So, when using granular fertilizer without a shield, widening the ring is the best practice to keep the product where it's needed and minimize unintended damage.

**9. Shoot pruning for root loss at transplanting is NOT recommended.**

- A. No, it is not recommended.**
- B. Yes, it's recommended.**
- C. It depends on the species.**
- D. Only for large plants.**

When a plant is transplanted and root mass is reduced, the plant needs as much leaf area as possible to photosynthesize and fuel new root growth. Pruning shoots at this moment cuts down photosynthetic capacity, reducing the energy available to recover roots and establish in the new location. That extra stress can slow establishment or increase transplant shock, so the recommended approach is to avoid pruning the shoots and keep the canopy intact while you provide steady moisture and gentle care. Only after roots begin to recover would selective pruning of damaged parts be considered. So, the best choice is that shoot pruning is not recommended. Saying it's recommended would go against the energy supply needed for root regrowth, and suggesting it depends on species or only for large plants introduces exceptions that aren't needed in this general guidance.

**10. Researchers have found that clipping clippings do not contribute to thatch.**

- A. Not enough evidence**
- B. True**
- C. False**
- D. It depends on grass type**

The main idea is that leaving grass clippings on the lawn does not add to thatch. Thatch is a dense layer of dead material that builds up when organic matter accumulates faster than it decomposes. Clippings, when returned to the lawn, typically decompose relatively quickly and release nutrients back into the soil, so they don't contribute to thatch. In fact, they can help turf health by adding organic matter and reducing the need for additional fertilizers. Research findings indicating that clipping clippings do not contribute to thatch align with this understanding. The other options don't fit as well: there is evidence to support the claim, and while there can be unusual situations, the general conclusion reported is that clipping residues do not build thatch.

## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://fnlahorticulturelandscapemaint.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**