

FNGLA HORTICULTURE LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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. Which statement best describes verticutting?**
 - A. It is a mechanical thatch removal
 - B. It mists the lawn with water
 - C. It fertilizes the soil
 - D. It grows grass faster by chemical means
- 2. What are common visual signs of drought stress in landscape plants, and what immediate action should be taken?**
 - A. Wilting, leaf curling, browning; water deeply and check irrigation coverage.
 - B. Leaves turning blue; prune heavily.
 - C. Rapid growth; fertilize immediately.
 - D. Wet soil; increase watering.
- 3. What PPE and safety practices are essential when performing pruning?**
 - A. Just gloves
 - B. No PPE required
 - C. Eye protection, gloves, long sleeves as needed, and safe tool handling; maintain sharp blades and use proper ladders or platforms
 - D. Hearing protection is essential only
- 4. What is a key cultural practice that helps suppress powdery mildew on ornamentals?**
 - A. Confirm symptoms and take no further action.
 - B. Rely solely on fungicides.
 - C. Increase humidity to suppress mildew.
 - D. Improve air circulation and reduce humidity.
- 5. What is a practical, systematic approach to diagnosing plant problems in the landscape?**
 - A. Observe symptoms, check cultural conditions and irrigation, inspect for pests and diseases, collect samples if needed, consult resources, and test soil or tissue as necessary.
 - B. Apply broad-spectrum pesticides first then observe.
 - C. Replace plant with new one.
 - D. Wait and see for months.

- 6. On ornamentals, which steps are recommended when powdery mildew is observed?**
- A. Ignore symptoms and continue regular watering.
 - B. Confirm symptoms, improve air circulation and reduce humidity, and apply an approved fungicide if necessary.
 - C. Remove affected plants and replace with mildew-resistant varieties.
 - D. Prune heavily to remove all leaves.
- 7. Which statement best explains the rationale for splitting fertilizer applications rather than applying all at once?**
- A. It wastes fertilizer
 - B. It reduces risk of nutrient burn and better matches plant uptake
 - C. It makes plants grow faster no matter what
 - D. It eliminates the need for irrigation
- 8. Which approach best guides irrigation depth and frequency in varying Florida soils?**
- A. Always water to field capacity on a fixed schedule.
 - B. Rely on soil moisture and texture to guide irrigation.
 - C. Water until water runs out.
 - D. Water only when leaves wilt.
- 9. After transplanting you should only prune for what purposes?**
- A. Removal of dead, diseased, crossed, broken or rubbing plants.
 - B. To reduce size
 - C. To promote flowering
 - D. To encourage root growth
- 10. Which pruning technique completely removes branches back to the lateral branches, the main trunk or the ground to provide a more open appearance?**
- A. Thinning.
 - B. Heading back.
 - C. Pinching.
 - D. Rejuvenation pruning.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which statement best describes verticutting?

- A. It is a mechanical thatch removal
- B. It mists the lawn with water
- C. It fertilizes the soil
- D. It grows grass faster by chemical means

Verticutting is a mechanical method of thatch removal. It uses vertical blades on a specialized machine to cut into the thatch layer—the mix of dead and living grass stems, roots, and debris between the soil surface and the green tissue. By cutting through and lifting this layer, verticutting helps remove excess thatch, improving air, water, and nutrient movement to the roots and encouraging healthier turf recovery. It's a physical process, not a watering routine, a fertilizer application, or a chemical growth aid, which is why it best describes this practice.

2. What are common visual signs of drought stress in landscape plants, and what immediate action should be taken?

- A. Wilting, leaf curling, browning; water deeply and check irrigation coverage.
- B. Leaves turning blue; prune heavily.
- C. Rapid growth; fertilize immediately.
- D. Wet soil; increase watering.

Drought stress shows up in plants when they no longer have enough water to keep cells turgid. Wilting is the most obvious sign—leaves and stems droop as cell pressure drops. Leaf curling is another response, helping to reduce surface area and water loss. Browning, especially at the leaf tips and margins, reflects dehydration and tissue damage from lack of water. The immediate action is to water deeply enough to moisten the root zone and then verify that the irrigation system is delivering water where the roots are active. Check soil moisture at depth and inspect for dry spots, leaks, or clogged emitters, and adjust coverage so the entire root zone can recover. Mulching can help reduce evaporation and support longer-term moisture retention. Other options don't fit drought needs: turning leaves blue isn't a typical drought sign; pruning heavily doesn't address water deficit and can stress the plant; rapid growth with fertilizing ignores the water shortage; and wet soil means there's already excess moisture, not drought.

3. What PPE and safety practices are essential when performing pruning?

- A. Just gloves
- B. No PPE required
- C. Eye protection, gloves, long sleeves as needed, and safe tool handling; maintain sharp blades and use proper ladders or platforms
- D. Hearing protection is essential only

Pruning safety focuses on protecting yourself from the main hazards: sharp blades can cut, flying wood chips can injure the eyes, thorny branches can scratch skin, and working at height creates a fall risk. Eye protection is essential because debris can strike the eyes during cutting or chip flying. Gloves guard your hands from cuts, punctures, and thorny parts, while long sleeves help shield skin from scratches and sun exposure. Safe tool handling, including a firm grip, controlled cuts, and keeping blades sharp, reduces the force you must apply and lowers the chance of slips. Using a proper ladder or platform provides stable reach instead of overreaching. Together, these PPE and practices cover the primary risks of pruning, which is why this option is the best. The other choices miss important protections or suggest no protection at all.

4. What is a key cultural practice that helps suppress powdery mildew on ornamentals?

- A. Confirm symptoms and take no further action.
- B. Rely solely on fungicides.
- C. Increase humidity to suppress mildew.

D. Improve air circulation and reduce humidity.

Powdery mildew flourishes when air around the foliage is still and humidity remains high, creating a favorable microclimate for the fungus to germinate and spread. The most effective cultural approach targets that environmental setup. By improving air circulation—pruning to open the canopy, increasing spacing between plants, and ensuring good airflow around ornamentals—you reduce the humidity buildup on leaf surfaces. Reducing humidity, in turn, makes it harder for the mildew to establish infections and slows its spread. This is a proactive, non-chemical strategy that addresses the conditions the disease needs to thrive. Choosing to do nothing won't help because the mildew will continue to colonize under those favorable conditions. Relying only on fungicides ignores the environmental factors that drive disease development and can lead to more frequent applications or resistance over time. Increasing humidity would create an even more inviting environment for the fungus, so it would worsen the problem.

5. What is a practical, systematic approach to diagnosing plant problems in the landscape?

A. Observe symptoms, check cultural conditions and irrigation, inspect for pests and diseases, collect samples if needed, consult resources, and test soil or tissue as necessary.

- B. Apply broad-spectrum pesticides first then observe.
- C. Replace plant with new one.
- D. Wait and see for months.

A practical, systematic approach to diagnosing plant problems in the landscape starts with careful observation of the symptoms—where they occur, how they started, and whether the pattern suggests a recurring stress or a localized issue. From there, checking cultural conditions and irrigation is essential because improper watering, drainage, soil compaction, or nutrient imbalances often produce symptoms that mimic disease or pest damage. Next, inspect for pests and diseases, looking for signs of insects, mites, fungal or bacterial growth, and characteristic damage patterns that point to biotic causes. If the cause isn't clear, collect samples and reference reliable resources to broaden your diagnostic viewpoint. Finally, test soil or plant tissue as needed to confirm nutrient deficiencies, pH issues, salinity, or specific pathogen presence. This structured process helps you pinpoint the real problem and choose targeted management, rather than guessing or resorting to broad, unnecessary treatments. Relying on quick pesticide applications, replacing the plant, or simply waiting can mask underlying causes and let problems worsen.

6. On ornamentals, which steps are recommended when powdery mildew is observed?

- A. Ignore symptoms and continue regular watering.
- B. Confirm symptoms, improve air circulation and reduce humidity, and apply an approved fungicide if necessary.**
- C. Remove affected plants and replace with mildew-resistant varieties.
- D. Prune heavily to remove all leaves.

Powdery mildew on ornamentals is best managed by a practical sequence: first confirm that what you're seeing is indeed powdery mildew, so you're treating the right problem. Then change the environment to make it harder for the fungus to thrive—improve air circulation by pruning or thinning crowded growth, space plants properly, and reduce leaf surface humidity by watering at the base and avoiding overhead wetting. If the disease continues after these cultural changes, treat with an approved fungicide following the label directions. This approach combines diagnostic accuracy, environmental suppression of the disease, and chemical control only when needed. Ignoring symptoms allows the fungus to spread, and removing all infected plants or pruning heavily to remove every leaf is often impractical and can stress the plants further. A targeted, measured response preserves plant health while reducing disease pressure.

7. Which statement best explains the rationale for splitting fertilizer applications rather than applying all at once?

- A. It wastes fertilizer
- B. It reduces risk of nutrient burn and better matches plant uptake**
- C. It makes plants grow faster no matter what
- D. It eliminates the need for irrigation

Splitting fertilizer applications focuses on matching nutrient supply to how and when plants take them up. If you fertilize all at once, soil salts can spike and cause stress or nutrient burn, especially when roots can't absorb the excess quickly enough. Spreading the dose keeps nutrient levels in the root zone at safer, lower concentrations and aligns availability with plant demand as roots grow and metabolism continues. It also reduces the chance of nutrients being lost to leaching or runoff during rain or irrigation, improving overall use efficiency. In landscape care, this approach supports steady, healthy growth and makes fertilizer use more economical.

8. Which approach best guides irrigation depth and frequency in varying Florida soils?

- A. Always water to field capacity on a fixed schedule.
- B. Rely on soil moisture and texture to guide irrigation.**
- C. Water until water runs out.
- D. Water only when leaves wilt.

Guiding irrigation depth and frequency by soil moisture status and soil texture recognizes that not all soils hold or drain water the same, and plant water needs change with weather. In Florida, soils range from fast-draining sandy profiles to heavier clays that hold water longer. Knowing the texture tells you how much water the root zone can store and how quickly it will lose moisture. Checking soil moisture in the root zone keeps you from overwatering sandy soils and from underwatering heavier soils, letting you refill the root zone to an optimal level without leaching or runoff. Tools like soil moisture sensors or tensiometers help you stay in the right range and you still adjust for rainfall and plant demand. The other options miss how soil type and current moisture control water availability: a fixed schedule to reach field capacity doesn't account for variability in soils and weather; watering until water runs out wastes water and can cause drainage beyond the roots; waiting for leaves to wilt means stressed plants before irrigation is applied.

9. After transplanting you should only prune for what purposes?

A. Removal of dead, diseased, crossed, broken or rubbing plants.

B. To reduce size

C. To promote flowering

D. To encourage root growth

After transplanting, the plant is focused on establishing a new root system, so pruning should be minimal and targeted. The best practice is to remove only material that could cause problems: dead or diseased tissue, and any parts that are crossing, broken, or rubbing against other branches. Clearing these helps reduce stress, lowers the risk of disease entering through wounds, and improves air circulation around the plant while it recovers. This approach keeps the plant resources allocated to root establishment and wound healing rather than stimulating more growth, which could strain a recently transplanted plant. Pruning to reduce size isn't ideal right after transplant because reducing leaf area can limit photosynthesis when the plant needs energy to recover and grow roots. Pruning to promote flowering isn't appropriate during establishment, since flowering diverts resources away from root development. Encouraging root growth isn't something you achieve directly by pruning above ground; root growth depends more on soil conditions, moisture, and overall plant health, so the immediate priority is removing problematic tissue to support establishment.

10. Which pruning technique completely removes branches back to the lateral branches, the main trunk or the ground to provide a more open appearance?

A. Thinning.

B. Heading back.

C. Pinching.

D. Rejuvenation pruning.

Thinning focuses on removing whole branches at their point of origin or where they meet the main branches, which opens up the canopy and allows more light and air to reach the interior of the plant. The description here—taking branches back to the lateral branches, the main trunk, or the ground to create a more open appearance—fits this technique precisely. Heading back, in contrast, cuts back to a bud or to a point on the same branch, which tends to leave stubs and promote denser, bushier growth rather than an open structure. Pinching targets soft new growth at the tips and doesn't address the overall openness of the canopy. Rejuvenation pruning is a heavy, restore-older-plants effort that removes a large portion of old wood to renew vigor, not a routine method to achieve openness.

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.

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

<https://fnghorticulturelandscapemaint.examzify.com>

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

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