

MASTER GARDENER PRACTICE EXAM (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. A lesion on a stem, branch, or twig is called what?**
 - A. Root Knot
 - B. Blight
 - C. Die Back
 - D. Canker
- 2. When is the correct time to prune young trees?**
 - A. During full summer
 - B. Immediately after planting
 - C. In late autumn
 - D. In midwinter
- 3. What is the correct balanced chemical equation for photosynthesis?**
 - A. $6\text{ CO}_2 + 6\text{ H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + 6\text{ O}_2$
 - B. $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + 6\text{ O}_2 \rightarrow 6\text{ CO}_2 + 6\text{ H}_2\text{O}$
 - C. $6\text{ CO}_2 + 6\text{ H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 6\text{ CO}_2 + 6\text{ H}_2\text{O}$
 - D. $6\text{ O}_2 + 6\text{ H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + \text{CO}_2$
- 4. Which statement correctly describes the two types of strawberry planting stock and their relative costs?**
 - A. Bare-root plants are readily available and less expensive; plug plants are about twice as expensive but less transplant shock and cleaner on arrival
 - B. Bare-root are more expensive; plug are cheaper
 - C. Both are equally priced and have same transplant shock
 - D. Plugs are less clean on arrival
- 5. Which statement describes how to distinguish simple and compound leaves, according to the material?**
 - A. Looking at the node location
 - B. Comparing leaf color
 - C. Measuring leaf thickness
 - D. Observing leaf venation

- 6. Which pruning practice is NOT listed for muscadines?**
- A. Spur Thinning
 - B. Tendril Removal
 - C. Branching
 - D. Previous Seasons Growth
- 7. Which concept involves selecting and grouping plants with similar water needs?**
- A. Aesthetic balance
 - B. Moisture requirements
 - C. Pest resistance
 - D. Growth rate
- 8. Calendar-based garden sprays are always recommended to stay ahead of pest problems.**
- A. Only in organic systems
 - B. Depends on pest
 - C. TRUE
 - D. FALSE
- 9. Which of the following factors are typically considered before choosing a fruit crop?**
- A. Sun, water, drainage, soil conditions, time requirement, and variety
 - B. Market price only
 - C. Color of fruit
 - D. Seed availability
- 10. In muscadine pruning, what term is used for the second-year canes?**
- A. Primo Canes
 - B. Spur Canes
 - C. Floricanes
 - D. Seed Canes

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A lesion on a stem, branch, or twig is called what?

- A. Root Knot
- B. Blight
- C. Die Back
- D. Canker

A lesion on a stem, branch, or twig is called canker. A canker is a localized area of dead tissue in the bark and underlying wood, often sunken and discolored, that forms where a pathogen or injury disrupts the tissue beneath the bark. Over time, the canker can enlarge and may girdle the branch, causing dieback beyond the lesion. This helps distinguish it from other terms: root knot refers to galls on roots, blight describes rapid, widespread tissue death often affecting leaves or large areas of the plant, and dieback describes progressive death starting at the tips of shoots rather than a discrete patch on the stem.

2. When is the correct time to prune young trees?

- A. During full summer
- B. Immediately after planting
- C. In late autumn
- D. In midwinter

Establishing a strong early structure is what this item tests. Pruning immediately after planting lets you shape the tree while it's still small and easy to manage. You can remove damaged or crowded limbs, select a single central leader, and shorten the top to encourage sturdy trunk growth and a balanced scaffold. This timing helps the new roots establish and supports healthy future growth, since the tree isn't forced to carry unnecessary top growth while its root system is still catching up. Pruning later—during hot summer, late autumn, or midwinter—can expose fresh wounds to harsh conditions or promote undesired growth patterns that the roots can't support yet. So pruning right after planting sets the tree up for a stronger, more reliable start.

3. What is the correct balanced chemical equation for photosynthesis?

- A. $6\text{ CO}_2 + 6\text{ H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + 6\text{ O}_2$
- B. $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + 6\text{ O}_2 \rightarrow 6\text{ CO}_2 + 6\text{ H}_2\text{O}$
- C. $6\text{ CO}_2 + 6\text{ H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 6\text{ CO}_2 + 6\text{ H}_2\text{O}$
- D. $6\text{ O}_2 + 6\text{ H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + \text{CO}_2$

Photosynthesis harnesses light energy to build sugars from carbon dioxide and water, producing glucose and oxygen. The balanced overall equation is $6\text{ CO}_2 + 6\text{ H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + 6\text{ O}_2$. If you count atoms, you have 6 carbon, 12 hydrogen, and 18 oxygen on both sides, so the equation is balanced. The glucose produced is $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$, and the six O_2 molecules represent the oxygen gas released. This is the correct direction for photosynthesis: carbon dioxide and water are the inputs, and glucose plus oxygen are the outputs, with light energy driving the reaction. The other options either show the process as the reverse (glucose and oxygen converting to CO_2 and water), show no net chemical change (the same molecules on both sides), or are not balanced properly, so they don't accurately represent the overall photosynthesis equation.

4. Which statement correctly describes the two types of strawberry planting stock and their relative costs?

- A. Bare-root plants are readily available and less expensive; plug plants are about twice as expensive but less transplant shock and cleaner on arrival**
- B. Bare-root are more expensive; plug are cheaper
- C. Both are equally priced and have same transplant shock
- D. Plugs are less clean on arrival

Two strawberry planting stock types to compare are bare-root and plug plants. Bare-root plants are shipped dormant with their roots exposed and no soil around them. They're readily available and generally less expensive because they require less nursery time and lighter shipping. The trade-off is they need careful handling to prevent drying out and they typically have more transplant work and potential for transplant shock as roots resume growth after planting. Plug plants come in small media-filled plugs, carrying a bit of growing medium and a more established root system. They cost more—often about twice as much—because of the nursery care and the contained rootball, but they generally transplant with less root disturbance, establish faster, and arrive cleaner with less soil/weed debris. So the statement reflects the practical trade-off: bare-root are cheaper and readily available, while plug plants are more expensive but offer reduced transplant shock and cleaner arrival.

5. Which statement describes how to distinguish simple and compound leaves, according to the material?

- A. Looking at the node location
- B. Comparing leaf color**
- C. Measuring leaf thickness
- D. Observing leaf venation

Distinguishing simple from compound leaves hinges on how the blade is arranged on the stem. A simple leaf is a single blade attached by its own petiole to the stem. A compound leaf is made up of multiple leaflets that share a single petiole or rachis, with a single bud at the base where that leaf attaches to the stem. Color changes or differences in hue are not reliable indicators of whether a leaf is simple or compound, since leaf color can vary with light, age, nutrition, or disease. In practice, look for the structure: count the leaflets and trace from the base. If you follow one stalk and find several leaflets attached to one common stalk, that's a compound leaf. If there's just one blade with its own base, that's a simple leaf. This structural check is the most direct way to tell the two apart.

6. Which pruning practice is NOT listed for muscadines?

- A. Spur Thinning
- B. Tendril Removal
- C. Branching**
- D. Previous Seasons Growth

Pruning muscadines focuses on managing fruiting wood and vine vigor by shaping the plant through specific removal and thinning practices. Spur thinning is used to leave only a few buds on each fruiting spur, helping balance fruit load with the vine's capacity and improving light and air reach to the fruit. Tendril removal is done to simplify training along the trellis, prevent entanglement, and reduce disease risk. Removing growth from the previous season helps keep the vine from becoming too vigorous and directs energy into productive wood for fruiting. Branching isn't a named pruning step used in muscadines; the vine's structure is maintained by selecting which canes and spurs to keep rather than creating additional "branches." So branching isn't part of the listed pruning practices for muscadines.

7. Which concept involves selecting and grouping plants with similar water needs?

- A. Aesthetic balance
- B. Moisture requirements**
- C. Pest resistance
- D. Growth rate

Moisture requirements describe why you group plants by how much water they need. In landscape design, arranging beds into zones with similar irrigation needs—often called hydrozoning—lets you tailor watering to each zone, reducing waste and preventing stress from over- or under-watering. When plants with high water needs are mixed with drought-tolerant species, irrigation becomes inefficient and both groups can suffer. By aligning plants with comparable moisture needs, you can schedule watering more precisely and maintain healthier, more water-efficient landscapes. The other options relate to different traits or design goals: aesthetic balance is about appearance, pest resistance is about defense against pests, and growth rate is about how fast plants grow, not their water requirements.

8. Calendar-based garden sprays are always recommended to stay ahead of pest problems.

- A. Only in organic systems
- B. Depends on pest
- C. TRUE
- D. FALSE**

Pest management works best when actions are guided by actual pest pressure and crop needs rather than a fixed calendar. Spraying on a set schedule regardless of what pests are present can lead to unnecessary applications, increased costs, and greater risk of problems like pesticide resistance, harm to beneficial insects, and environmental impact. In practice, you monitor pest populations, assess damage potential, and use action thresholds to decide if and when to spray. Timing matters because some pests are present only at certain life stages or times, and mis-timed sprays can miss the window of effectiveness. Rotating modes of action, following label directions, and integrating cultural and biological controls all help reduce reliance on routine calendar sprays while keeping crops protected. So the statement that calendar-based garden sprays are always recommended isn't correct.

9. Which of the following factors are typically considered before choosing a fruit crop?

- A. Sun, water, drainage, soil conditions, time requirement, and variety
- B. Market price only
- C. Color of fruit
- D. Seed availability

Choosing a fruit crop hinges on whether the plant can thrive in the available site and climate and fit the grower's resources. Sunlight is essential because it powers photosynthesis and influences fruit development and color; enough water and good drainage keep roots healthy and prevent stress and rot; soil conditions such as pH, texture, and fertility determine nutrient availability and overall root performance. The time requirement, or how long it takes for a crop to mature and be harvest-ready, matters for aligning with the growing season, labor schedule, and market timing. Finally, choosing a variety that suits the climate, disease pressures, and market needs helps ensure reliable yield and quality. Options that focus only on market price miss whether the crop can actually be grown well in that location; focusing on color asks about a cosmetic trait rather than whether the plant will perform agronomically; and seed availability deals with propagation logistics but doesn't capture the primary factors that determine whether a fruit crop can be grown successfully in a given setting.

10. In muscadine pruning, what term is used for the second-year canes?

- A. Primo Canes
- B. Spur Canes
- C. Floricanes
- D. Seed Canes

In muscadine pruning, canes are named by their age and fruiting status: second-year canes are called floricanes. These are the wood that grew last year, has matured, and now bears (or will bear) fruit in the current season. The term floricanes comes from being a cane that flowers and fruits after its first year of growth. First-year growth that will bear fruit next year is called primocanes. The other terms don't fit this age-based naming: spur canes refer to short fruiting sections produced by pruning rather than an age category, and seed canes isn't a standard term in muscadine taxonomy. So floricanes are the correct label for the second-year, fruit-bearing canes.

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://mastergardener.examzify.com>

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

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