

# OHIO CERTIFIED NURSERY TECHNICIAN PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

## STUDY GUIDE



## SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR  
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://ohionurserytech.examzify.com>



**Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.**

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

# Table of Contents

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Copyright .....             | 1  |
| Table of Contents .....     | 2  |
| Introduction .....          | 3  |
| How to Use This Guide ..... | 4  |
| Questions .....             | 5  |
| Answers .....               | 8  |
| Explanations .....          | 10 |
| Next Steps .....            | 15 |

SAMPLE

# 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

SAMPLE

- 1. Define 'corm' in plant propagation.**
  - A. A modified stem
  - B. A seed structure
  - C. A swollen underground storage organ that produces new shoots
  - D. A type of root system
- 2. What is the significance of soil fertility testing in nursery management?**
  - A. It determines pest levels in the soil.
  - B. It identifies soil compaction issues.
  - C. It determines nutrient levels needed for optimal plant growth.
  - D. It helps to estimate the cost of soil amendments.
- 3. What is a potential consequence of planting too deeply?**
  - A. Faster growth of the plant
  - B. Increased fruit production
  - C. Stem rot and poor oxygen access to roots
  - D. Better water retention
- 4. For the best nutrient availability in a mineral soil, what is the ideal soil pH range?**
  - A. 5.0-6.0
  - B. 6.0-7.0
  - C. 7.0-8.0
  - D. 4.5-5.5
- 5. What is one key reason for using plant labels in nurseries?**
  - A. To inform customers about pricing.
  - B. To identify plant varieties and care requirements.
  - C. To designate plant ownership.
  - D. To mark locations for planting.
- 6. What impact does sunscald have on young plants?**
  - A. It promotes rapid growth.
  - B. It can damage plant tissues, leading to dieback.
  - C. It has no significant effect on young plants.
  - D. It enhances photosynthesis rates.

- 7. In the context of nursery production, what is substrate?**
- A. A type of fertilizer
  - B. The material in which plants are grown
  - C. A specific type of plant
  - D. A pest control method
- 8. What is the primary purpose of labeling seedlings in a nursery?**
- A. To decorate the nursery
  - B. To track growth and care needs
  - C. To identify pest problems
  - D. To enhance soil drainage
- 9. Client education in plant maintenance is essential for what purpose?**
- A. Maximizing short-term profits
  - B. Long-term health of the landscape
  - C. Enhancing the design's aesthetic appeal
  - D. Fostering relationship with contractors
- 10. Which of the following conditions is not recommended for fertilizer application?**
- A. Cold weather
  - B. During drought
  - C. Before a light rain
  - D. High humidity

## **Answers**

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

## **Explanations**

SAMPLE

## 1. Define 'corm' in plant propagation.

- A. A modified stem
- B. A seed structure
- C. A swollen underground storage organ that produces new shoots**
- D. A type of root system

A corm is defined as a swollen underground storage organ that produces new shoots. This structure serves as a reservoir of nutrients and energy, allowing plants to survive adverse conditions and regenerate during favorable seasons. Corms are fleshy and have a solid, swollen base, which differentiates them from bulbs that have layers. When the conditions are right, the corm can sprout, producing new growth and further propagating the plant. This definition highlights the role of corms in the life cycle of specific plants, particularly in regions where they may experience dormancy. Understanding corms is crucial for proper plant care and propagation, as they are integral in the growth and development of various perennial plants.

## 2. What is the significance of soil fertility testing in nursery management?

- A. It determines pest levels in the soil.
- B. It identifies soil compaction issues.
- C. It determines nutrient levels needed for optimal plant growth.**
- D. It helps to estimate the cost of soil amendments.

Soil fertility testing plays a crucial role in nursery management by determining nutrient levels needed for optimal plant growth. This process involves analyzing soil samples to assess the presence and concentration of essential nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and micronutrients. Understanding these levels allows nursery managers to tailor their fertilization practices to meet the specific needs of different plants, promoting healthy growth and development. By knowing the nutrient status of the soil, nursery managers can make informed decisions about the types and amounts of fertilizers to apply, thereby enhancing plant vigor, improving yield, and potentially reducing the environmental impact of excess fertilization. Properly balanced soil fertility not only supports healthier plants but also helps to prevent issues such as nutrient deficiencies or toxicities, which can adversely affect plant health and productivity.

## 3. What is a potential consequence of planting too deeply?

- A. Faster growth of the plant
- B. Increased fruit production
- C. Stem rot and poor oxygen access to roots**
- D. Better water retention

Planting too deeply can lead to stem rot and poor oxygen access to the roots due to several factors related to soil dynamics and plant physiology. When a plant is placed deeper than recommended, parts of the stem that are normally above the soil line may be buried, creating a moist environment that fosters decay. The lack of proper air exchange in the upper soil layers can hinder root respiration, which is critical for healthy plant growth. Additionally, buried stems may not be able to photosynthesize effectively, as they require access to light. This poor environmental condition can lead to a weakened plant structure, resulting in stunted growth or death. Therefore, proper planting depth is crucial for ensuring that roots receive adequate oxygen, while also preventing diseases such as rot from affecting the health of the plant.

**4. For the best nutrient availability in a mineral soil, what is the ideal soil pH range?**

- A. 5.0-6.0
- B. 6.0-7.0**
- C. 7.0-8.0
- D. 4.5-5.5

*The ideal soil pH range for optimal nutrient availability in mineral soils is generally considered to be between 6.0 and 7.0. At this pH range, essential nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and various micronutrients are most accessible to plants. The chemical reactions that govern nutrient solubility and availability are influenced by pH; at a neutral pH around 6.5 to 7.0, many nutrients are readily available while toxic elements like aluminum are less soluble, reducing their potential harm to plants. Maintaining this pH range also supports beneficial microbial activity in the soil, which is vital for breaking down organic matter and facilitating nutrient uptake by plants. In contrast, soil pH values outside this range, either too low or too high, can lead to nutrient deficiencies or toxicities that can adversely affect plant health and growth.*

**5. What is one key reason for using plant labels in nurseries?**

- A. To inform customers about pricing.
- B. To identify plant varieties and care requirements.**
- C. To designate plant ownership.
- D. To mark locations for planting.

*Using plant labels in nurseries primarily serves the purpose of identifying plant varieties and care requirements. This information is crucial for both nursery staff and customers. Proper identification ensures that the right plants are chosen for specific landscapes or gardening needs. Additionally, labels typically provide vital care information, such as watering needs, sunlight preferences, and growth habits, which help in the successful cultivation of the plants. This knowledge is essential for nursery professionals and customers alike, promoting better plant health and enhancing the overall gardening experience. While pricing, ownership, and planting locations may be relevant in other contexts, they do not encompass the primary function of labels in delivering essential care instructions and plant identification within a nursery setting.*

**6. What impact does sunscald have on young plants?**

- A. It promotes rapid growth.
- B. It can damage plant tissues, leading to dieback.**
- C. It has no significant effect on young plants.
- D. It enhances photosynthesis rates.

*Sunscald can significantly impact young plants by damaging their tissues, which can lead to dieback. This condition typically occurs when there is a sudden fluctuation in temperature, particularly when a sunny day follows a period of cold. The rapid warming can cause the bark or outer tissue to heat up more quickly than the underlying tissues, which can result in cellular damage. This damage may disrupt the plant's ability to transport nutrients and water, ultimately leading to stress or even death of the plant if the damage is severe enough. Thus, understanding the potential effects of sunscald is essential for the care and management of young plants, especially in climates with dramatic temperature variations.*

## 7. In the context of nursery production, what is substrate?

- A. A type of fertilizer
- B. The material in which plants are grown**
- C. A specific type of plant
- D. A pest control method

Substrate refers to the material in which plants are grown, serving as the foundation for root systems and providing necessary support and nutrients. This can include various mixtures of organic materials, like peat moss, bark, and compost, as well as inorganic components like perlite or expanded clay. Understanding the role of substrates is vital in nursery production as they influence not only plant growth but also water retention, drainage, and aeration. The characteristics of a substrate can determine how effectively plants can take up water and nutrients, impacting their overall health and development. Recognizing the significance of substrates helps nurserymen and horticulturists optimize their growing conditions for different plant species and cultivate healthy, robust plants. This contrasts with the other options that focus on fertilizers, specific plants, or pest control methods, which do not address the growing medium's critical role in horticulture.

## 8. What is the primary purpose of labeling seedlings in a nursery?

- A. To decorate the nursery
- B. To track growth and care needs**
- C. To identify pest problems
- D. To enhance soil drainage

Labeling seedlings in a nursery primarily serves the purpose of tracking growth and care needs. Proper identification of each seedling allows nursery staff to manage and monitor plant health effectively. By knowing the specific species and cultivars, employees can tailor watering, fertilization, and pest management practices to the requirements of each plant type. This organized approach ensures that seedlings receive the appropriate care at the right stage of their development, promoting healthy growth and reducing the risk of disease or stress. While decoration can enhance the appearance of the nursery and help consumers find what they are looking for, it is not the primary purpose of labeling. Identifying pest problems typically relies more on visual inspections and monitoring rather than on labeling alone. Similarly, enhancing soil drainage is a growing medium management concern and not directly related to the labeling process. Thus, tracking the growth and care needs of seedlings through effective labeling is essential for successful nursery operations.

## 9. Client education in plant maintenance is essential for what purpose?

- A. Maximizing short-term profits
- B. Long-term health of the landscape**
- C. Enhancing the design's aesthetic appeal
- D. Fostering relationship with contractors

Client education in plant maintenance is essential for the long-term health of the landscape. This approach emphasizes the importance of understanding proper care techniques for plants, such as correct watering, fertilization, pruning, and pest management. By equipping clients with this knowledge, they can ensure that their plants thrive over time, leading to a more sustainable and vibrant landscape. Educating clients about maintenance practices not only promotes the well-being of the plants but also contributes to the overall ecosystem health, which includes soil quality, pest control, and plant diversity. This proactive approach helps clients to recognize their role in the ongoing health of their landscape, fostering a sense of responsibility and engagement. While maximizing short-term profits and enhancing aesthetic appeal are important factors in nursery and landscape management, the core goal of client education should focus on maintaining plant vitality for many seasons to come. Building relationships with contractors can be a beneficial side effect, but it is not the primary purpose of plant maintenance education.

**10. Which of the following conditions is not recommended for fertilizer application?**

- A. Cold weather
- B. During drought**
- C. Before a light rain
- D. High humidity

*Applying fertilizer under drought conditions is generally not recommended because the lack of moisture can significantly impede the nutrient absorption by plants. In drought, the soil is often dry, and plants are stressed, making them less capable of utilizing fertilizers effectively. Fertilizers require moisture to dissolve and move into the root zone where plants can take them up. Without adequate water, the intended benefits of the fertilizer can be lost, and it may lead to nutrient runoff or leaching without benefiting the plants. On the other hand, cold weather, particularly when involving temperatures below freezing, can disrupt the seasonal soil microbial activity essential for breaking down fertilizers into forms that plants can take up. Applying fertilizers in such conditions can be ineffective for plant growth. Fertilizing before a light rain can be advantageous because the precipitation helps dissolve and incorporate the fertilizer into the soil, making nutrients readily available for plant uptake. High humidity may not pose a direct risk to fertilizer application, but moisture levels should be considered in conjunction with other factors at the time of application.*

SAMPLE

## 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://ohionurserytech.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE