

Texas FFA Nursery Landscape Practice Exam (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. Which insect creates trails between leaf surfaces?**
 - A. Spider mites**
 - B. Aphids**
 - C. Leaf miners**
 - D. Thrips**

- 2. What are plants called that use less water and are tolerant of dry landscape sites?**
 - A. Xerophytes**
 - B. Epiphytes**
 - C. Dryophytes**
 - D. Monoecious**

- 3. Soft pencil leads are indicated by which letter?**
 - A. B**
 - B. F**
 - C. H1**
 - D. H**

- 4. Which gardening practice is primarily aimed at sustaining soil fertility?**
 - A. Weeding**
 - B. Crop rotation**
 - C. Pruning**
 - D. Pest control**

- 5. Examples of cool season grasses include perennial ryegrass, bentgrass, and:**
 - A. Zoysia**
 - B. St. Augustine**
 - C. Bermudagrass**
 - D. Fescue**

- 6. What causes damping-off in plants?**
- A. Fungi**
 - B. Viruses**
 - C. Bacteria**
 - D. Nematodes**
- 7. Which tree is known for having the finest textured foliage?**
- A. Mesquite**
 - B. Sweet gum**
 - C. Sycamore**
 - D. Southern Magnolia**
- 8. What is the term for the effect when some plants release chemicals into the soil that inhibit the growth of surrounding plants?**
- A. Chemical Synpathy**
 - B. Allelopathy**
 - C. Reduction Oxidation**
 - D. Hormonal Redaction**
- 9. What type of fabric is superior for landscaping according to current horticultural practices?**
- A. Non-breathable polyethylene**
 - B. Horticultural fabrics**
 - C. Organic mulch materials**
 - D. Plastic sheeting**
- 10. What is the ideal composition of soil?**
- A. 25% solid material, 25% air, 50% water**
 - B. 25% air, 25% nutrients, 50% water**
 - C. 25% solid material, 25% water, 50% air**
 - D. 25% water, 25% air, 50% solid material**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which insect creates trails between leaf surfaces?

- A. Spider mites**
- B. Aphids**
- C. Leaf miners**
- D. Thrips**

The correct choice is leaf miners, as these insects are known to create distinctive trails or tunnels between the upper and lower surfaces of leaves. Leaf miners are larvae of various insects, including certain flies and moths, that burrow into the leaf tissue to feed while leaving behind a visible trail or path. This tunneling not only damages the leaf but can also affect the overall health of the plant by limiting its ability to photosynthesize effectively. Spider mites, while problematic pests, do not create trails between leaf surfaces; instead, they typically create fine webs or concentrate on the undersides of leaves. Aphids are soft-bodied insects that feed on plant sap but do not create trails; they may leave behind sticky residues on plants. Thrips are slender insects that can damage foliage by feeding on it, but they do not produce the distinctive trails associated with leaf miners. Understanding the specific feeding habits of these pests is essential for proper identification and management in nursery and landscape settings.

2. What are plants called that use less water and are tolerant of dry landscape sites?

- A. Xerophytes**
- B. Epiphytes**
- C. Dryophytes**
- D. Monoecious**

Plants that use less water and are tolerant of dry landscape sites are referred to as xerophytes. This term specifically describes a group of plants that have adapted to survive in environments with limited water availability, such as deserts or arid conditions. Xerophytes exhibit specialized adaptations to conserve moisture, such as thick, waxy leaves, deep root systems, and the ability to store water in their tissues. Understanding the characteristics of xerophytes is important in landscaping and gardening, especially in regions facing water scarcity, as they can help create sustainable and drought-resistant gardens. Other terms, such as epiphytes, describe plants that grow on other plants but do not derive nutrients from them, and dryophytes is not a commonly recognized term in plant classification. Monoecious refers to plants that have both male and female reproductive structures, which is unrelated to water usage or drought tolerance.

3. Soft pencil leads are indicated by which letter?

- A. B**
- B. F**
- C. H1**
- D. H**

Soft pencil leads are denoted by the letter B. The B scale is specifically designed to indicate softer leads, which produce darker marks on paper compared to harder leads. As the number preceding the B increases, the lead becomes softer, allowing for a greater range of darkness when writing or drawing. In contrast, leads marked with H are harder and create lighter lines, while F leads represent a pencil that is more flexible, falling between B and H in terms of softness and hardness. Therefore, understanding the grading system helps in selecting the appropriate pencil based on the desired darkness of lines and the specific needs of a drawing or writing project.

4. Which gardening practice is primarily aimed at sustaining soil fertility?

- A. Weeding**
- B. Crop rotation**
- C. Pruning**
- D. Pest control**

Crop rotation is a gardening practice that involves alternating the types of crops grown in a particular area over time. This method is primarily aimed at sustaining soil fertility by preventing nutrient depletion, breaking disease cycles, and disrupting pest life cycles. Different crops require varying nutrients from the soil, and rotating them ensures that the same nutrients are not continually extracted by the same type of plant, which can lead to imbalances and depletion of specific soil nutrients. In addition to maintaining soil fertility, crop rotation facilitates the improvement of soil structure and health, fostering a more diverse ecosystem in the garden. This practice can enhance soil organic matter levels and improve overall soil biodiversity, making the soil more resilient and productive in the long term. The other options, while important components of overall garden maintenance and management, do not primarily focus on sustaining soil fertility. Weeding helps reduce competition for nutrients but does not directly contribute to soil health. Pruning is aimed more at promoting plant growth and shape rather than soil health, and pest control focuses on managing animal and insect populations to protect plants rather than directly influencing soil nutrients.

5. Examples of cool season grasses include perennial ryegrass, bentgrass, and:

- A. Zoysia**
- B. St. Augustine**
- C. Bermudagrass**
- D. Fescue**

Cool season grasses thrive in the cooler parts of the year, typically growing best in spring and fall when temperatures are moderate. Fescue is a prime example of a cool season grass. It is known for its adaptability to various soil types and its ability to maintain vigor in temperatures that might be too cool for warm season grasses, which prefer hotter weather. Its growth habit allows it to establish a dense and durable lawn that remains green longer into the cooler months compared to warm season grasses. On the other hand, Zoysia, St. Augustine, and Bermudagrass are all classified as warm season grasses. These types flourish in the heat of summer, with optimal growth conditions occurring in warmer temperatures. Therefore, they are not suitable examples of cool season grasses, making fescue the correct choice in this context.

6. What causes damping-off in plants?

- A. Fungi**
- B. Viruses**
- C. Bacteria**
- D. Nematodes**

Damping-off is a common issue in plant health, particularly affecting seedlings and young plants, and it is primarily caused by fungi. This condition leads to the rotting of stems and roots, which can result in the collapse and death of the plants. The fungal pathogens responsible for damping-off thrive in overly moist conditions and can easily spread through contaminated soil, water, tools, or plant debris. The fungi involved often belong to genera such as *Pythium*, *Rhizoctonia*, and *Fusarium*. These pathogens can infect plants at various stages of growth, but they are particularly harmful during the germination phase when the seedlings are most vulnerable. Recognizing fungi as the primary cause of damping-off is crucial for implementing prevention strategies, such as improving drainage, avoiding over-watering, using sterilized growing media, and practicing crop rotation to reduce the fungal load in the soil. While viruses, bacteria, and nematodes can all cause issues for plants, they are not the primary agents responsible for damping-off. Viruses typically cause systemic symptoms and do not lead to the characteristic stem and root rot associated with damping-off. Bacteria may lead to soft rot or other types of decay, but again, do not present the same symptoms as damping-off. N

7. Which tree is known for having the finest textured foliage?

- A. Mesquite**
- B. Sweet gum**
- C. Sycamore**
- D. Southern Magnolia**

The tree recognized for having the finest textured foliage is the Southern Magnolia. This tree is known for its large, glossy leaves that have a smooth, leathery texture, giving it an elegant appearance. The Southern Magnolia's foliage is typically dark green on the top and a lighter brown underneath, which creates a striking contrast and adds to its ornamental value. While Mesquite has a more fibrous and rough texture, Sweet gum leaves are known for their star shape and can be lobed, which does not contribute to the fine texture associated with the Southern Magnolia. Sycamore leaves are also quite broad and have a more rugged appearance. Therefore, among these options, Southern Magnolia stands out for its refined and aesthetically pleasing foliage.

8. What is the term for the effect when some plants release chemicals into the soil that inhibit the growth of surrounding plants?

- A. Chemical Synpathy**
- B. Allelopathy**
- C. Reduction Oxidation**
- D. Hormonal Redaction**

The correct term for when certain plants release chemicals into the soil that inhibit the growth of surrounding plants is allelopathy. This phenomenon involves the secretion of allelochemicals, which can affect germination, growth, and development of nearby plant species. Allelopathy can be a natural strategy for plants to reduce competition for resources such as water, nutrients, and sunlight. For example, some trees, like black walnut, produce juglone, a chemical that can be toxic to many other plants that grow nearby. This is an adaptation that can help ensure the survival of the allelopathic plant by limiting competition. The other terms in the options, such as chemical sympathy, are not widely recognized in the context of plant interactions and do not accurately describe this phenomenon. Reduction oxidation and hormonal redaction also pertain to different biological processes that do not involve the inhibition of growth in surrounding plants due to chemical release. Thus, allelopathy is the precise term that encapsulates this interaction in the plant kingdom.

9. What type of fabric is superior for landscaping according to current horticultural practices?

- A. Non-breathable polyethylene**
- B. Horticultural fabrics**
- C. Organic mulch materials**
- D. Plastic sheeting**

Horticultural fabrics are recognized as the superior choice for landscaping due to their functionality and benefits in various gardening and landscaping applications. These fabrics allow water and air to permeate while preventing the growth of weeds, which is essential for maintaining healthy plant environments. They are typically made from woven or non-woven materials, providing a durable barrier that is effective in controlling weeds without completely obstructing the natural processes that support plant health. These fabrics help to retain soil moisture and regulate temperature, which can be particularly beneficial in preventing rapid evaporation in hot climates. Additionally, they can help in soil stabilization and reducing erosion, making them an ideal option for gardens and landscaped areas. Other options, such as non-breathable polyethylene and plastic sheeting, do not allow for air exchange or moisture to enter the soil, which can lead to root suffocation and poor plant health. Organic mulch materials, while beneficial for moisture retention and nourishment, do not provide the same level of weed control as horticultural fabrics. Thus, the versatility and effectiveness of horticultural fabrics in promoting healthy plant growth while minimizing maintenance make them the preferred choice in current horticultural practices.

10. What is the ideal composition of soil?

- A. 25% solid material, 25% air, 50% water**
- B. 25% air, 25% nutrients, 50% water**
- C. 25% solid material, 25% water, 50% air**
- D. 25% water, 25% air, 50% solid material**

The ideal composition of soil is generally recognized to be approximately 25% water, 25% air, and 50% solid material, including minerals and organic matter. This balance is crucial for creating an optimal environment for plant roots, allowing for proper drainage, aeration, and nutrient availability. Having 50% solid material ensures that there are enough nutrients and minerals present for plant growth, as plants rely on these components for essential sustenance. The 25% water component is vital for hydration, providing moisture that facilitates nutrient absorption and biological processes in the soil. Lastly, the 25% air is important for root respiration and maintains a balance in soil structure, preventing compaction and allowing for adequate oxygen levels in the root zone. This composition supports not only plant health but also soil microbial activity, which is essential for nutrient cycling and overall soil health. Each element plays a critical role in forming a well-functioning soil ecosystem.

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://texasffa-nurserylandscape.examzify.com>

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

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