

# WSNLA Washington State Certified Professional Horticulturist Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

1. What is the common name for *Trachelospermum jasminoides*?
  - A. Star Jasmine
  - B. Creeping Jasmine
  - C. Sweet Pea
  - D. Fragrant Vine
2. Which of the following is an evergreen plant?
  - A. *Viburnum tinus* 'Spring Bouquet'
  - B. Evergreen Azalea
  - C. *Rosmarinus officinalis*
  - D. All of the above
3. What is the common name for *Cornus mas*?
  - A. Cornelian Cherry
  - B. Red Horsechestnut
  - C. Katsura Tree
  - D. Himalayan Birch
4. What is the common name for *Daphne x transatlantica* 'Summer Ice'?
  - A. Summer Ice Hybrid Daphne
  - B. Winter Ice Hybrid Daphne
  - C. Spring Ice Hybrid Daphne
  - D. Summer Frost Hybrid Daphne
5. What is the common name for *Fothergilla gardenii*?
  - A. Dwarf Fothergilla
  - B. Large Fothergilla
  - C. White Fothergilla
  - D. Full-size Fothergilla
6. Which plant is known as Evergreen Clematis?
  - A. *Clematis armandii*
  - B. *Clematis* 'Jackmanii'
  - C. Sweet Woodruff
  - D. Wintergreen

- 7. Which species is known as the Blue Star Juniper?**
- A. *Juniperus sabina***
  - B. *Juniperus procumbens***
  - C. *Juniperus squamata***
  - D. *Picea glauca***
- 8. What is the primary seasonal blooming period for Pansies?**
- A. Winter**
  - B. Spring**
  - C. Summer**
  - D. Fall**
- 9. Which plant is known as Korean Spice Viburnum?**
- A. *Viburnum x bodnantense***
  - B. *Viburnum carlesii***
  - C. *Weigela florida***
  - D. *Ajuga reptans***
- 10. Which common name corresponds to *Salix purpurea*?**
- A. Dwarf Arctic Blue Willow**
  - B. Weeping Willow**
  - C. Black Willow**
  - D. Pussy Willow**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is the common name for Trachelospermum jasminoides?**

- A. Star Jasmine**
- B. Creeping Jasmine**
- C. Sweet Pea**
- D. Fragrant Vine**

Trachelospermum jasminoides is commonly known as Star Jasmine. This name reflects both its star-like flowers that resemble those of jasmine and its vigorous growth habit as a vine or ground cover. Star Jasmine is valued in horticulture for its fragrant, white to yellow flowers and glossy green leaves, making it a popular choice for trellises, fences, and as a ground cover in gardens. Its ability to thrive in various conditions further contributes to its widespread appeal in landscape design. While other names may refer to different plants or have specific characteristics that don't apply here, the term "Star Jasmine" is the one that accurately identifies Trachelospermum jasminoides in horticultural contexts, highlighting its floral and growth characteristics effectively.

**2. Which of the following is an evergreen plant?**

- A. Viburnum tinus 'Spring Bouquet'**
- B. Evergreen Azalea**
- C. Rosmarinus officinalis**
- D. All of the above**

Evergreen plants are defined by their ability to retain their leaves throughout the year, as opposed to shedding them seasonally. Each of the plants mentioned is recognized for its evergreen characteristics. Viburnum tinus 'Spring Bouquet' is an evergreen shrub that produces dense foliage year-round, making it a great choice for hedges or borders in the landscape. Evergreen Azaleas are part of the Rhododendron family, specifically bred for their ability to retain their leaves throughout the year. This trait allows them to provide continuous greenery even during winter months, enhancing the aesthetic appeal of gardens. Rosmarinus officinalis, commonly known as rosemary, is also an evergreen. It maintains its aromatic leaves throughout the year and is often used in culinary applications as well as ornamental gardens. Therefore, all of the listed plants are classified as evergreen, making the response that includes all options correct. Each plant contributes uniquely to landscaping and garden design while ensuring year-round foliage.

### 3. What is the common name for Cornus mas?

- A. Cornelian Cherry**
- B. Red Horsechestnut**
- C. Katsura Tree**
- D. Himalayan Birch**

The common name for Cornus mas is indeed the Cornelian Cherry. This name is derived from the fact that the tree produces cherry-like, edible red fruits in the late summer, although it is not a true cherry in the botanical sense. Cornus mas is a deciduous shrub or small tree native to Europe and parts of Asia, valued for its early spring flowers, which are often one of the first to bloom, attracting pollinators. The fruits are also used in jellies and jams, emphasizing its utilitarian value in addition to ornamental aesthetics. The other options refer to entirely different species: Red Horsechestnut is known for its showy flower clusters and is a different genus, while the Katsura Tree is recognized for its heart-shaped leaves and fragrant autumn foliage. Himalayan Birch is a type of birch tree notable for its striking white bark and is unrelated to the Cornelian Cherry. Thus, the distinction between these trees highlights the unique characteristics that define Cornus mas and contribute to its common name.

### 4. What is the common name for Daphne x transatlantica 'Summer Ice'?

- A. Summer Ice Hybrid Daphne**
- B. Winter Ice Hybrid Daphne**
- C. Spring Ice Hybrid Daphne**
- D. Summer Frost Hybrid Daphne**

The common name for Daphne x transatlantica 'Summer Ice' is indeed the Summer Ice Hybrid Daphne. This name is derived from the hybrid species and the cultivar name, which indicates the specific variety within the Daphne genus. The term "Summer Ice" suggests characteristics of this plant, which is known for its ability to produce attractive flowers during the summer months while showcasing variegated foliage that can resemble frosted or ice-like patterns. Such names often reflect the plant's aesthetics or the season it prominently blooms in, making it easier for horticulturists and gardeners to identify them based on their characteristics and flowering periods. The other options use varying terminology, such as "Winter," "Spring," or "Frost," which do not correspond to the attributes or flowering period of this specific hybrid, leading to the conclusion that they are not accurate common names for this particular plant.

**5. What is the common name for Fothergilla gardenii?**

- A. Dwarf Fothergilla**
- B. Large Fothergilla**
- C. White Fothergilla**
- D. Full-size Fothergilla**

The common name for *Fothergilla gardenii* is Dwarf Fothergilla. This deciduous flowering shrub is known for its compact size, typically growing to a height of 2 to 3 feet. It is favored in landscaping for its attractive foliage and fragrant spring flowers. The use of "Dwarf" in its common name highlights its smaller stature compared to other species in the *Fothergilla* genus, such as *Fothergilla major*, which is commonly known as Large Fothergilla. This distinction is important for gardeners and landscapers looking to select appropriate plants for limited spaces or specific design aesthetics. While other options reference different sizes or characteristics that do not accurately represent *Fothergilla gardenii*, the label "Dwarf Fothergilla" effectively communicates the shrub's unique, compact form, making it clear why this is the correct common name.

**6. Which plant is known as Evergreen Clematis?**

- A. Clematis armandii**
- B. Clematis 'Jackmanii'**
- C. Sweet Woodruff**
- D. Wintergreen**

*Clematis armandii* is known as Evergreen Clematis due to its ability to maintain its foliage throughout the year, distinguishing it from many other clematis species that lose their leaves in winter. This plant is valued for its attractive, glossy green leaves and fragrant white flowers that bloom in early spring, adding visual interest and aroma to gardens during a time when many plants are still dormant. The evergreen nature of *Clematis armandii* makes it particularly appealing for landscapes, as it provides year-round greenery and can serve as a climbing vine on trellises or other structures. Its hardiness in various climates and versatility in garden design further contribute to its popularity among horticulturists and gardeners alike. In contrast, the other options mentioned do not share the evergreen characteristic or the botanical classification necessary to be referred to as Evergreen Clematis.

**7. Which species is known as the Blue Star Juniper?**

- A. Juniperus sabina**
- B. Juniperus procumbens**
- C. Juniperus squamata**
- D. Picea glauca**

The species known as the Blue Star Juniper is *Juniperus squamata*. This plant is recognized for its striking blue foliage and compact, mounding growth habit, making it a popular choice for ornamental landscaping. The leaves of *Juniperus squamata* are needle-like and have a distinctive silvery-blue color, which gives it its common name, Blue Star Juniper. Its growth pattern and color make it particularly appealing for use in rock gardens or as a low hedge. The other species listed do not share the same characteristics or common name. For instance, *Juniperus sabina*, commonly known as savin juniper, typically has a more spreading growth habit and darker green foliage. *Juniperus procumbens*, or Japanese garden juniper, is known for its prostrate form and green to gold coloring. *Picea glauca*, on the other hand, is a species of spruce, not a juniper, and is recognized for its conical shape and light green to bluish foliage. Thus, distinguishing the unique attributes of *Juniperus squamata* in terms of both appearance and nomenclature solidifies its identification as the Blue Star Juniper.

**8. What is the primary seasonal blooming period for Pansies?**

- A. Winter**
- B. Spring**
- C. Summer**
- D. Fall**

Pansies are primarily known for their vibrant and colorful blooms in the early spring. Their blooming period often begins in late winter or very early spring as they are one of the first flowers to emerge once the colder temperatures start to moderate. This makes them an excellent choice for seasonal displays as they can survive light frost, which facilitates their popularity in gardens during this time. While pansies can provide some color in the fall due to their ability to tolerate cooler temperatures, their peak blooming season and the timing when they are most widely planted is in spring. This ability to thrive in cooler temperatures and their capacity to produce a plethora of flowers early in the gardening season is why spring is recognized as the primary seasonal blooming period for pansies.

**9. Which plant is known as Korean Spice Viburnum?**

**A. Viburnum x bodnantense**

**B. Viburnum carlesii**

**C. Weigela florida**

**D. Ajuga reptans**

Korean Spice Viburnum is recognized by its scientific name, *Viburnum carlesii*. This deciduous shrub is prized for its fragrant, pink to white flowers that bloom in mid-spring. The blossoms have a sweet, spicy scent, making them a favorite in gardens, especially near walkways or patios where their fragrance can be enjoyed. Additionally, *Viburnum carlesii* features attractive, dark green leaves that turn a beautiful reddish-purple in the fall, adding seasonal interest to the landscape. In contrast, the other choices do not correspond to Korean Spice Viburnum. *Viburnum x bodnantense* is a different hybrid viburnum known for its earlier bloom period and unique scent but does not carry the specific name "Korean Spice." *Weigela florida* is a flowering shrub known for its tubular flowers but is not part of the *Viburnum* genus. *Ajuga reptans*, commonly called bugleweed, is a ground cover plant that also does not relate to *Viburnum* at all. Thus, *Viburnum carlesii* stands out as the accurate identification for Korean Spice Viburnum due to its distinct characteristics and nomenclature.

**10. Which common name corresponds to *Salix purpurea*?**

**A. Dwarf Arctic Blue Willow**

**B. Weeping Willow**

**C. Black Willow**

**D. Pussy Willow**

*Salix purpurea* is commonly known as the Dwarf Arctic Blue Willow. This species is characterized by its compact size, distinctive blue-green foliage, and typically grows to a height of about 3 to 5 feet. It is often used in garden settings for its ornamental qualities and is particularly appreciated for its adaptability to wet conditions, making it a popular choice for water gardens or areas with poor drainage. The other choices represent different species of willows, which have their own unique characteristics. The Weeping Willow, known for its graceful, drooping branches, is scientifically referred to as *Salix babylonica*. The Black Willow, recognized for its dark bark and a more significant height, is *Salix nigra*. Lastly, the Pussy Willow, famous for its soft, furry flower buds, is commonly identified as *Salix discolor* or other related species. Each of these species is distinct and does not correspond to *Salix purpurea*.