



R2112

**UNDERSTANDING THE CHOICE, ESTABLISHMENT AND
MAINTENANCE OF GARDEN PLANTS AND LAWNS**

Level 2

Tuesday 15 February 2011

11.00 – 11.30

Written Examination

Candidate Number:

Candidate Name:

Centre Number/Name:

IMPORTANT – Please read carefully before commencing:

- i) The duration of this paper is **30 minutes**;
- ii) **ALL** questions should be attempted;
- iii) **EACH** question carries **10 marks**;
- iv) Write your answers legibly in the spaces provided;
- v) Use metric measurements only;
- vi) Where plant names are required, they should include genus, species and where appropriate, cultivar.

Answer all questions

Marks

1. a) Describe the annual maintenance of a garden pool.

8

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- b) Describe **TWO** methods used to control blanket weed.

2

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Please see over

2. a) State **TWO** benefits and **TWO** limitations of establishing a high quality ornamental lawn from seed.

4

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- b) State a suitable grass seed mixture for a high quality ornamental lawn and specify the percentage of **EACH** grass species within the mix.

3

.....

.....

.....

.....

- c) List **SIX** procedures involved in the preparation of land prior to establishing a lawn from seed.

3

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Please turn over

4. a) Name **TWO** groundwork (infill) plants and **TWO** bulbs suitable for a spring bedding display. **2**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- b) State the planting distances for **TWO** of the plants **NAMED** in a). **2**

.....

.....

.....

.....

- c) Describe the method of planting groundwork (infill) plants and bulbs in a spring bedding display on a prepared site. **6**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Please turn over

5. a) Describe the factors to be considered when selecting suitable containers for alpine or rock garden plants. **3**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- b) State the characteristics of a growing medium used for the cultivation of alpine garden plants grown in containers. **4**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- c) List the routine annual maintenance required for alpine/rock garden plants grown in containers. **3**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Please see over

6. a) Name **FOUR** herbaceous perennial plants suitable for use as ground cover.

4

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- b) Name **THREE** plant pests of herbaceous perennial plants and describe their control.

6

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**© These questions are the property of the Royal Horticultural Society.
They may not be reproduced or sold.**

**The Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB
RHS Registered Charity No: 222879/SC038262**



R2112

**UNDERSTANDING THE CHOICE, ESTABLISHMENT AND
MAINTENANCE OF GARDEN PLANTS AND LAWNS**

Level 2

Tuesday 15 February 2011

Candidates Registered	156	Pass with Commendation	27 (19.85%)
Candidates Entered	136	Pass	66 (48.52%)
Absent/Withdrawn/Deferred	20	Fail	43 (31.61%)
Total Candidates Passed	93 (68.38%)		

Senior Examiner's Comments:

1. Candidates should be able to demonstrate a good range of plant knowledge and be able to give accurately named plant examples where appropriate. Common names and generic names are often too vague and cannot be rewarded in the positive manner that genus, species and where appropriate, variety/cultivar can. This is particularly important when answering questions relating to particular (named) plant(s). Marks can only be awarded for these narratives where the example(s) are correctly and fully identified.
2. Candidates must be able to display accurate knowledge of the technical terms and concepts detailed in the syllabus, in the context of horticulture and be aware that wider interpretation will not be rewarded. The examination should be regarded as a possible introduction to higher level studies, which will only be open to those who are in possession of a clear understanding of the horticultural terms and concepts which are current.
3. The introductory rubric given on the first page of each question paper should be read carefully by candidates. At each examination there are a significant number of candidates who ignore or misread the instructions given and consequently may not perform as well as they could have done.
4. Candidates should pace themselves during each paper. The most successful candidates allow sufficient time to read the question thoroughly before answering it and also take time to read through their answers. They should take care to write as legibly as possible, so that the examiner is in no doubt about what is intended.

5. Candidates need to interpret key words within questions, particularly those such as 'state', 'list' and 'describe'. Questions requiring descriptions or explanations obviously require a more detailed answer than those requiring a list.
6. It is important to ensure that responses to questions are to the point. Candidates should bear in mind that small sketches might be used to convey information more succinctly than words.
7. Successful candidates ensure that their answers are focused and to the point. It is disappointing when they cannot be rewarded for their efforts because the answer is irrelevant to the particular question. Candidates should take note of the mark allocation for specific sections and allocate their time and efforts accordingly.
8. Diagrams can enhance an answer and where appropriate can replace detailed descriptions. They should be large, clear and well annotated, and preferably in pencil. Colour may be used successfully but only where it is relevant to the answer.
9. In each examination it is clear that some candidates are ill prepared to answer papers of the type set. It is essential that candidates have the opportunity to practice questions. Ideally some papers should be answered in a time constrained situation.
10. Candidates should be aware of the reading list of suggested books for the RHS Level 2 Certificate in The Principles of Garden Planning, Establishment and Maintenance which is available from the Qualifications Section and can also be found on the RHS website together with past papers.

Examiners' Comments:

	Marks
1. a) <i>Describe the annual maintenance of a garden pool.</i>	8
The majority of candidates described the annual maintenance of a pool well and were able to give details of a range of tasks carried out throughout the year including; the removal of debris in the dormant season, thinning oxygenating plants, cleaning the liner of the pool, feeding aquatic plants with specialist feed etc. Those candidates who provided a range of tasks required by both pool and plants gained high marks.	
b) <i>Describe TWO methods used to control blanket weed.</i>	2
Most students were able to describe the methods used to remove blanket weed from a pool including twirling it on a rake, the use of an algicide and the use of barley straw.	

2. a) State **TWO** benefits and **TWO** limitations of establishing a high quality ornamental lawn from seed. 4

The majority of candidates were able to state the benefits and limitations of establishing a high quality lawn from seed and gave a range of responses including cheaper than turf, seed mix can be tailored to a specific situation for benefits and difficult to establish on slopes, prone to bird attack and can only be carried out when the weather and temperature allow for limitations.

- b) State a suitable grass seed mixture for a high quality ornamental lawn and specify the percentage of **EACH** grass species within the mix. 3

The better candidates provided botanical names for the grass species as stated in the examination paper rubric and gave suitable percentages of Festuca rubra, Festuca rubra commutata and Agrostis capillaris for a high quality lawn. The inclusion of Lolium perenne was not acceptable.

- c) List **SIX** procedures involved in the preparation of land prior to establishing a lawn from seed. 3

Candidates were able to list the procedures involved in the preparation of land for a lawn including removing perennial roots, digging, raking to remove stones and levelling, consolidation of soil, second raking to produce a tilth for sowing seed.

3. a) List **FOUR** trees grown for autumn display. 4

Candidates who listed the botanical names of garden trees which have distinctly attractive features during the autumn season e.g. leaf colour, fruits and berries and flowers gained maximum marks. Various species of Acer and Sorbus were listed as good examples.

- b) Describe the planting of an ornamental tree on a prepared site. 6

Candidates who described in detail the systematic planting procedures involved in planting an ornamental tree gained full marks. Procedures described included the excavation of the hole, insertion of the stake, ensuring tree is at the correct height, backfilling the hole, firming the soil and attaching the tree to the stake using a tree tie. Describing the preparation of the site was not necessary.

4. a) Name **TWO** groundwork (infill) plants and **TWO** bulbs suitable for a spring bedding display. 2

Candidates who provided examples of spring bedding infill plants and gave botanical names as stated in the rubric gained maximum marks. Suitable answers included; Erysimum cheiri 'Fire King', Viola x wittrockiana Joker series, Tulipa 'Queen of Night' and Hyacinthus orientalis 'Delft Blue'.

- b) State the planting distances for **TWO** of the plants **NAMED** in a). 2

Better answers gave the planting distances in metric as stated in the rubric and were appropriate for the plants named in part a) of the question, i.e. the distance between centres of plants which is normally between 20 – 30cm depending on plant species.

- c) *Describe the method of planting groundwork (infill) plants and bulbs in a spring bedding display on a prepared site.* 6

Candidates who gained the higher marks were those who gave detailed descriptions of the actual planting of the groundwork (infill) plants. These included details of tools used, size of the hole made, depth and spacing of plants and bulbs, avoiding straight lines when planting etc. Details of the preparation of the site were not required.

5. a) *Describe the factors to be considered when selecting suitable containers for alpine or rock garden plants.* 3

Candidates who were able to describe suitable containers e.g. those with good drainage, durable and of an appropriate weight which fulfil the requirements of alpine and rock garden plants gained most marks.

- b) *State the characteristics of a growing medium used for the cultivation of alpine garden plants grown in containers.* 4

Most candidates were aware of the significance of good drainage but the better candidates were able to relate the importance of moisture retention, pH and sterility of the growing medium to container grown plants.

- c) *List the routine annual maintenance required for alpine/rock garden plants grown in containers.* 3

All candidates were able to list some annual maintenance tasks but those who included a wide range e.g. feeding, weeding, division, pruning, dead-heading, winter protection etc gained full marks.

6. a) *Name **FOUR** herbaceous perennial plants suitable for use as ground cover.* 4

Candidates who were able to correctly name herbaceous perennial plants that have a vigorous spreading habit and do not reach more than 25cm tall gained full marks. Woody ground cover plants were not accepted.

- b) *Name **THREE** plant pests of herbaceous perennial plants and describe their control.* 6

Most candidates were able to name specific pests which affect herbaceous perennials including; slugs/snails, vine weevils and aphids. Caterpillars need to be specifically identified. The best answers described a suitable control including the active ingredient of chemicals which are still recommended for use where appropriate.

**© These questions are the property of the Royal Horticultural Society.
They may not be reproduced or sold.**

The Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB

RHS Registered Charity No: 222879/SC038262

May 2011