



R2112

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

Level 2

Tuesday 28 June 2011

11.00 – 11.40

Written Examination

Candidate Number:

Candidate Name:

Centre Number/Name:

IMPORTANT – Please read carefully before commencing:

- i) The duration of this paper is **40 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;
- vii) Please note, sufficient lined space is provided. It is not necessary that all lined space is used.

Answer all questions

Marks

1. a) State, in chronological order, the major operations carried out in the preparation of a seedbed for hardy annuals, indicating the optimum months for **EACH**.

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- b) Describe **TWO** distinct methods of direct sowing a **NAMED** hardy annual, giving sowing distances and depth of sowing where applicable.

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Total Mark

Please see over

- i) naturalising in a lawn;
- ii) mixed border.

Please turn over

- i) cluster-flowered (floribunda); **1**
- ii) large-flowered (hybrid tea). **1**

[illegible]

- [illegible]

4

4. a) Name **FOUR** alpine or rock garden plants grown for spring display.

[illegible]

- b) Describe the annual maintenance required on an alpine or rock garden.

Total Mark

Please turn over

5. a) Name **TWO** aquatic plants suitable for the following situations in a pond:

- i) marginal;
ii) floating.

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- b) Describe the planting of a **NAMED** deep-water aquatic plant in an aquatic basket.

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Total Mark

Please see over

6. a) Describe what is meant by the following terms:

- i) aerating;
- ii) scarifying.

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b) State **SIX** annual maintenance tasks carried out on a hard wearing utility lawn other than those described in a).

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Total Mark

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



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MAINTENANCE OF GARDEN PLANTS AND LAWNS**

Level 2

Tuesday 28 June 2011

Candidates Registered	747	Pass with Commendation	216 (36.36%)
Candidates Entered	594 (79.5%)	Pass	236 (39.73%)
Absent/Withdrawn/Deferred	153 (20.5%)	Fail	142 (23.91%)
Total Candidates Passed	452 (76.09%)		

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>State, in chronological order, the major operations carried out in the preparation of a seedbed for hardy annuals, indicating the optimum months for EACH.</i>	6
	b) <i>Describe TWO distinct methods of direct sowing a NAMED hardy annual, giving sowing distances and depth of sowing where applicable.</i>	4
	a) Full marks were awarded to those candidates who provided a clear system of operations including: forking; removal of weeds; rough raking; treading and raking to produce a final tilth during March, April and May. Good answers also referred to the use of the stale seedbed technique. Details of primary cultivations were not required.	
	b) Candidates named a range of hardy annuals e.g. <i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i> 'Sonata' and described sowing seeds broadcast and in drills. Details included broadcasting the seed in two directions thinly and then lightly raking them in. The marking out of drills to the correct depth for the species named, sowing thinly or space sowing them before covering the seed to the correct depth was also described.	

2. Describe the soil preparation and planting of **ONE NAMED** bulb for **EACH** of the following situations:

- i) *naturalising in a lawn;* **5**
- ii) *mixed border.* **5**

The better candidates gave consideration when selecting plant species for each situation. When naturalising bulbs in a lawn e.g. *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* they need to be either early or very late season to avoid clashing with mowing operations. When planting bulbs in a mixed border e.g. *Tulipa* 'Queen of Night', consideration needs to be given to other plants in the border.

Details on the depth of planting, spacing and arrangement of the bulbs, method and equipment used to plant the bulbs and dealing with the turf or other plants in the border were awarded marks.

Botanical names were required for full marks.

3. a) Name **ONE** example of **EACH** of the following types of roses:

- i) *cluster-flowered (floribunda);* **1**
- ii) *large-flowered (hybrid tea).* **1**

- b) *State the maintenance tasks carried out on a rose bed during spring.* **8**

- a) Candidates who provided suitable examples of Roses e.g. *Rosa* 'Queen Elizabeth' (cluster flowered) and *Rosa* 'Peace' (large flowered) were awarded full marks.

Examples of species and shrub roses were not accepted.

- b) A range of suitable maintenance tasks were provided by candidates and included; removing suckers, spring pruning, the application of fertiliser and mulch, edging up, dead heading, spraying for pests and diseases, leaf clearing etc. The best candidates qualified their answers and were awarded high marks.

4. a) Name **FOUR** alpine or rock garden plants grown for spring display. **4**

- b) *Describe the annual maintenance required on an alpine or rock garden.* **6**

- a) The best candidates named plants for a spring display and gained full marks. Examples named included; *Armeria maritima*, *Dryas octopetala*, *Raoulia hookeri* and *Sedum acre*.
- Botanical names were required for full marks.
- b) The majority of candidates were able to describe a range of maintenance tasks required on an alpine or rock garden. Acceptable answers included descriptions of; weeding, dividing, cutting back old growth, replanting, mulching and providing winter protection.
5. a) Name **TWO** aquatic plants suitable for the following situations in a pond:
- i) marginal; 2
- ii) floating. 2
- b) Describe the planting of a **NAMED** deep-water aquatic plant in an aquatic basket. 6
- a) Candidates provided a range of suitable plants for each type of situation in a pond e.g.
- i) *Equisetum japonicum*, *Houttuynia cordata*, *Iris pseudoacorus* 'Variegatus', *Lobelia cardinalis* and *Zantedeschia aethiopica*.
- ii) *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Pistia stratiotes*, *Trapa nutans*
- Botanical names were required for full marks.
- b) Most candidates provided acceptable examples of deep water aquatic plants e.g. *Aponogeton distachyum* and *Nymphoides peltata*.
- Candidates who gained the higher marks were those who gave detailed descriptions of the planting of a deep water aquatic plant in an aquatic basket. These included details of the type of container used, suitable growing media, lining the container, preparing the plant i.e. removal of damaged leaves and weeds and suitable method/s of locating the basket for maintenance.
- Details of planting the basket in a pond were not required.
6. a) Describe what is meant by the following terms:
- i) aerating; 2
- ii) scarifying. 2
- b) State **SIX** annual maintenance tasks carried out on a hard wearing utility lawn other than those described in a). 6

- a)
 - i) Candidates who described aeration as the spiking/piercing of holes in the root zone to induce an increase in air around the roots or root pruning to stimulate increased root growth, relieving compaction or improving drainage were awarded marks.
 - ii) The best candidates described scarifying as the scratching of the turfs' surface to remove thatch and debris as well as the breaking up of stolons to encourage 'tillering' and upright growth.
- b) Candidates provided a range of suitable maintenance tasks that can be carried out on lawns which included; mowing, weed control, feeding, irrigation, brushing, top dressing, overseeding and pest and disease control. Those candidates who qualified their answers gained maximum marks.

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