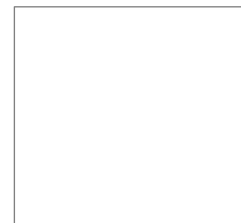




Including examiner comments



R2112

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

Level 2

Tuesday 6 February 2024

11:20 – 12:10

Written Examination

Candidate Number:

Candidate Name:

Centre Name:

IMPORTANT – Please read carefully before commencing:

- i) The duration of this paper is **50** minutes;
- ii) **ALL** questions should be attempted;
- iii) **EACH** question carries **10 marks**;
- iv) Write your answers legibly in the spaces provided. It is **NOT** necessary that all lined space is used in answering the questions;
- v) Use **METRIC** measurements only;
- vi) Use black or blue ink only. Pencil can be used for drawing purposes only. Ensure that all diagrams are labelled accurately with the line touching the named object;
- vii) Where plant names are required, they should include genus, species and where appropriate, cultivar;
- viii) Where a question requires a specific number of answers; only the first answers given that meet the question requirement will be accepted, regardless of the number of answers offered;
- ix) Please note, when the word '**distinct**' is used within a question, it means that the items have different characteristics or features.

MARKS

Q4 a) State what is meant by **EACH** of the following:

- i) true alpine plants
- ii) rock garden plants

1
1

i).....

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ii).....

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b) Describe **TWO** method of providing winter protection for alpine plants.

4

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c) Name **TWO** distinct alpine or rock garden plants for **EACH** of the following:

- i) spring display
- ii) summer display

2
2

i).....

.....

.....

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ii).....

.....

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Total Mark

Please turn over/.....

MARKS

10

Q6 State a suitable month to carry out **EACH** of the following tasks included in the annual maintenance of a fine quality lawn by completing the table below:

Maintenance task	Suitable month
Scarifying	
Feeding with a high nitrogen fertiliser	
Feeding with a balanced fertiliser	
Mowing	
Aerate	
Top dressing	
Weed control	
Control of fusarium patch	
Control of pests e.g. Leatherjackets	
Control of moles	

Total Mark

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**The Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB.
Charity Registration Number: 222879/SC038262**

**RHS LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE IN THE PRINCIPLES OF GARDEN PLANNING,
ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

6th FEBRUARY 2024

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 also 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, ensuring that labels are properly attached to the features they describe. Diagrams should preferably be 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. Appropriate feedback must, in any case be provided.

Unit R2112 Understanding the Choice, Establishment & Maintenance of Garden

Plants & Lawns

State **TWO** benefits of using F_1 hybrid plants in a summer bedding scheme.

State the usual life-cycle of plants used as 'edging' in summer bedding schemes.

List the tasks for soil preparation and planting summer bedding in the order that they should be carries out.

Q1a) Most candidates gained full marks by stating suitable benefits of F_1 hybrid plants in a summer bedding scheme. These included:

- uniform spread
- uniform colour of flowers
- longer flowering period
- uniform height.

Q1b) Half hardy annual, tender plants or plants grown as annuals were correctly stated as the usual life cycle of plants used as 'edging' in summer bedding schemes by the majority of candidates. These candidates were awarded maximum marks.

Q1c) Maximum marks were achieved by candidates who were able to list the tasks for soil preparation and planting summer bedding in chronological order. Acceptable answers included:

- removal of spring bedding/weeds
- soil cultivation single digging/forking
- raking/levelling/shaping
- consolidation/raking to create a tilth
- application of a base dressing
- positioning of plants/spacing
- planting i.e. removal of pot, teasing out roots
- watering.

State **TWO** situations where bulbs and corms can be naturalised, giving a **NAMED** plant example for **EACH**, by completing the table below:

Situation	Plant example
1.	
2.	

Describe **TWO** methods of naturalising **ONE** of the bulbs named above.

Q2a) A range of situations where bulbs and corms can be naturalised were provided by the best candidates who achieved full marks. Suitable answers included:

Situation	Plant example
1. Woodland	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>
2. Lawn/meadow	<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>

Q2b) Candidates who had a good understanding of different methods of naturalising bulbs gained maximum marks. Suitable answers included:

Narcissus pseudonarcissus can be naturalised in grass by:

- i) scattering the bulbs on the grass area where they are to be planted to ensure a natural effect. A hole is made in the grass to a depth of three times the depth of the bulb using a trowel or a specialised bulb planter. The bulb is placed in the hole with the nose facing upwards. The plug of turf is replaced on top of the bulb. Bulbs are planted at a spacing of the width of the bulb.
- ii) cutting and rolling back an area of turf. The soil is forked over before scattering the bulbs over the area. The bulbs are planted using a trowel in a hole three times the depth of the bulb with the nose facing upwards. After planting the turf is replaced and firmed.

Name **FOUR** distinct trees grown for winter interest.

Describe **TWO** distinct methods of staking when planting trees.

Q3a) The majority of candidates were able to name trees grown for winter interest and were awarded full marks. These included:

Acer griseum, *Acer davidii*, *Prunus serrula*, *Corylus avellana* 'Tortuosa', *Salix matsudana* 'Tortuosa', *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*.

Q3b) Good descriptions of methods of staking when planting trees were provided by many candidates who achieved maximum marks. Suitable answers included:

A short stake, up to 1m in height can be used at an angle of 45° towards the direction of the wind and tied with a buckle tie and spacer.

A single upright stake can be used which is half the height of the trunk of the tree. This is inserted on the windward side of the tree and tied with one buckle tie with a spacer.

Double stakes to a height of 1m can be used either side of the tree spaced between 30-45cm apart. Cross ties can be attached to the stakes to support the tree or a cross beam can be used and the tree tied to this with a rubber tie.

State what is meant by **EACH** of the following:

- i) true alpine plants
- ii) rock garden plants

Describe **TWO** methods of providing winter protection for alpine plants.

Name **TWO** distinct alpine or rock garden plants for **EACH** of the following:

- i) spring display
- ii) summer display

Q4a) The best candidates were able to state the meaning of true alpine plants and rock garden plants and gained full marks. Acceptable answers included:

- i) **true alpine plants** True alpine plants grow in an alpine climate at 1,830m which occurs at high elevation between the treeline and the permanent snow line.
- ii) **Rock garden plants** Rock garden plants are those that are low growing, compact which can be an alpine plant but do not have to be one and look good in a rock garden.

Q4b) Candidates who were able to describe suitable methods of providing winter protection for alpine plants were awarded full marks. These included:

An open-ended cloche made from panes of glass or plastic held together by a wire frame.

A frame, which can be made from wood over an alpine bed which is covered on top with glass, plastic or sheets of polycarbonate.

Alpine plants can be lifted and placed in an alpine glasshouse which is cold and provides ventilation at the sides as well as in the roof.

Q4c) A range of alpine or rock garden plants were named for specific seasons by many candidates who gained maximum marks. Suitable answers included:

- i) **spring display**
Primula auricula, Pulsatilla vulgaris.
- ii) **summer display**
Dianthus alpinus, Dryas octopetala.

Name **TWO** distinct plants suitable for a bog garden

Describe how to plant **ONE** of the bog plants **NAMED** in a).

Describe **TWO** maintenance tasks carried out on a bog garden.

Q5a) The majority of candidates were able to name plants suitable for a bog garden and achieved maximum marks. Acceptable answers included:

Aruncus dioicus, Darmera peltata, Juncus effusus f. spiralis, Osmunda regalis, Primula florindae, Rodgersia pinnata.

Q5b) Suitable descriptions of how to plant a bog plant were provided by most candidates who were awarded full marks. These included:

Rodgersia pinnata is planted into cultivated soil which has been lightly forked over with care to avoid puncturing the liner. A hole large enough for the root system to be spread out is dug and the plant placed to ensure that the crown is at the correct level. The soil is replaced and firmed around the plant. The plant can be cut back to encourage new growth and kept weed free.

Q5c) Candidates described a range of maintenance tasks that are carried out on a bog garden and achieved full marks. Suitable answers included:

Tidy/prune plants by cutting back old foliage to the base (using sharp secateurs) in late autumn and remove it from the bog garden.

Keep the bog garden moist at all times by topping it up from a water butt, especially in times of drought.

Weed around the plants by hand or with the use of a hand fork to avoid them smothering the plants.

State a suitable month to carry out **EACH** of the following tasks included in the annual maintenance of a fine quality lawn by completing the table below:

Q6) The best candidates had a good understanding of when to carry out specific tasks included in the annual maintenance of a fine quality lawn and gained full marks.

Maintenance task	Suitable month
Scarifying	March-April & September -October
Feeding with a high nitrogen fertiliser	March-August
Feeding with a balanced fertiliser	March-September-October
Mowing	March-September
Aerate	April-June & September-October
Top dressing	March-April & September-October
Weed control	March-April & September-October
Control of fusarium patch	September-November
Control of pests e.g. Leatherjackets	July-September
Control of moles	February-June