

2021-2022 HORTICULTURE JUDGING LEADER'S GUIDE

The Delaware 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest provides an opportunity for 4-H members to acquire knowledge and skills in identification and selection of horticultural products (i.e. vegetables, fruits, flowers, ornamentals) and then apply these basic skills to consumer decision-making. This contest helps teach youth to recognize and identify some of the most important horticultural crops, to learn criteria influencing quality, be able to answer questions and solve problems relating to the art and science of horticulture, and explore careers in the horticultural fields.

There are two divisions for this contest: Junior and Senior.

Junior participants must be between the ages of 8-12 in 4-H age. Individuals 13 and older must complete the senior contest. If a junior chooses to participate in both divisions, they must complete the senior level contest first. The top ten senior participants from each county are eligible to participate in the state contest. Should ten seniors not be available, juniors may be asked to participate in the state event.

Resources:

4-H Gardening Project Book series from Purdue Extension (2016 Version):

- Level A: See Them Sprout
- Level B: Let's Get Growing
- Level C: Take Your Pick
- Level D: Growing Profits
- Helper's Guide



County Judging Virtual Practice Kit contact [Jenny](#) for resource

How to Formulate a Set of Reasons for a Judging Class: [Creating Reasons for a Judging Class](#)

Junior Judging Contest

Knowledge

The knowledge section tests the youth's understanding of basic horticulture principles. Questions that form the knowledge test come from the Purdue Horticulture Project Book series (2016 version). The challenge level of the questions will be reflective of the age division. The Junior division will cover the first two levels, book A and B.

10 questions, true-false, multiple choice type, short answer



Identification

Juniors will identify 5 samples of each of the following categories (total of 20 samples). Specimens may be alive or preserved plant parts (such as, but not limited to leaves, flowers, seeds, fruits, bulbs, tubers, or plant products), or photos. Samples for each age division will also be reflective of their age ability.

Fruits, Berries, and Nuts

- Almond
- Apple
- Blackberry
- Blueberry
- English walnut
- Grapefruit
- Lemons
- Limes
- Orange
- Peach
- Pineapple
- Plum
- Strawberry
- Watermelon

Vegetables and Herbs

- Basil
- Beet
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Cauliflower
- Celery
- Chives
- Cucumber
- Garlic
- Radish
- Romaine Lettuce
- Rosemary
- Russet potatoes
- Spinach
- Zucchini

Flowers and Foliage

- African Violet
- Aloe Vera
- Daylily
- Fern
- Hosta
- Impatiens
- Iris
- Jade Plant
- Pansy
- Peony
- Rose
- Snapdragon
- Spider plant
- Sunflower
- Tulip

Ornamentals

- Azalea
- Boxwood
- Crape myrtle
- Forsythia
- Holly
- Lilac
- Redbud
- Shrub Oak
- Silky Dogwood
- Spirea

Judging

Participants will judge one class of Fruits or Vegetables and one class of Flowers/Foliage or Ornamentals.



Skill Demonstration

Juniors will demonstrate one of the following skills

- Test soil for wetness
- How to transplant a seedling
- Start a plant from a plant part

Senior Judging Contest

Knowledge

The knowledge section tests the youth's understanding of basic horticulture principles. Questions that form the knowledge test come from the Purdue Horticulture Project Book series (2016 version). The challenge level of the questions will be reflective of the age division. The Senior division will cover information from all four books, Levels A, B, C and D.

25 questions, true-false, multiple choice type, short answer

Identification

Seniors will identify 15 samples from each of the following categories (60 samples)
Specimens may be alive or preserved plant parts (such as, but not limited to stems, twigs, leaves, flowers, seeds, fruits, roots, bulbs, tubers, or plant products), or photos. Samples for each age division will also be reflective of their age ability.

Fruits, Berries, and Nuts

- Almond
- Apple
- Apricot
- Avocado
- Blackberry
- Blueberry
- Brazil nut
- Cherry, sour
- Cherry, sweet
- Chestnut
- Grape
- Grapefruit
- Kiwi
- Lemon
- Lime
- Mango
- Nectarine
- Orange
- Peach
- Pear
- Pecan
- Pineapple
- Plum
- Pomegranate
- Raspberry
- Strawberry
- Tangerine
- Walnut, Black
- Walnut, English
- Watermelon



Vegetables and Herbs

- Basil
- Beet
- Broccoli
- Butternut squash
- Cabbage
- Carrot
- Cauliflower
- Celery
- Chives
- Cilantro
- Cucumber
- Garlic
- Kale
- Kohlrabi
- Leek
- Lima Bean
- Okra
- Onion
- Oregano
- Parsley
- Pea
- Pepper
- Radish
- Romaine Lettuce
- Rosemary
- Russet Potato
- Sage
- Spinach
- Turnip
- Zucchini

Flowers and Foliage

- African Violet
- Aloe Vera
- Asiatic Lily
- Begonia
- Coleus
- Coral Bells
- Dalia
- Daylily
- English Ivy
- Fern
- Gerbera Daisy
- Gladiolus
- Globe Amaranth
- Heart-leaf
Philodendron
- Hosta
- Impatiens
- Iris
- Jade Plant
- Orchid
- Pansy
- Peony
- Rose
- Salvia
- Snapdragon
- Spider Plant
- Sunflower
- Tulip
- Verbena
- Wax Plant
- Zebra Plant

Ornamentals

- Azalea
- Bayberry
- Beautyberry
- Boxwood
- Chokecherry
- Cockspur
Hawthorn
- Crape Myrtle
- Creeping Juniper
- Forsythia
- Holly
- Hydrangea
- Lilac
- Redbud
- Shrub Oak
- Silky Dogwood
- Spirea
- Sweetshrub
- Viburnum
- Virginia Sweetspire
- Wisteria

Judging

Participants will judge one class of Fruits/Vegetables and one class of Flowers/Foliage or Ornamentals.

Seniors will be expected to provide written reason for one designated class.



Use this format for written reasons: Introduction, Body, and Conclusion

Intro I placed this class _____ (name class) 3,1,2,4

Body I placed 3 over 1 because.... I placed 1 over 2 because... I placed 2 over 4 because...

Conclusion For these reasons, I placed this class of _____ 3,1,2,4.

Career Exploration

Seniors will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of careers in Horticulture (Level B pages 36-38, Level C pages 48-49)

Skill Demonstration

Demonstrate two of the following skills

- Demonstrate a garden with intercropping or succession planting (Level C pages 4-7, Level D pages 7-13)
- Demonstrate how to plan a broadcast, intensive, or square foot garden (Level C pages 4-6, Level D pages 4-5)
- Diagram a three-year garden crop rotation (Level B page 6)
- Start a plant from a plant part
- Demonstrate method to extend the growing season (Helper's Guide page 56)

Training for all Participants

Training 4-H'ers to participate in Horticulture Judging should be fun for all, as well as educational.

The Project Helper's Guide has many fun, hands-on training activities. In addition to these activities, project groups can:

- Take field trips to supermarkets, roadside stands, garden centers, county extension office gardens, or gardening events to study vegetable, flower, and ornamental plants for identification and quality judging.
- Hold training sessions in neighborhood gardens. Use these sessions to teach identification of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and ornamental plants in a hands-on setting. You can also harvest vegetables and flowers and use them to teach and practice judging. Consider using a well-landscaped area to teach about landscaping principles. Also, take this as an opportunity to practice horticultural skills.
- Collect various flowers, vegetables, foliage, and ornamental plant samples or have members bring in specimens from home for a training session.



- Collect garden catalogs and use the photographs to teach identification. Make use of reference books, extension materials, and trade publications as training materials.
- Invite Master Gardeners, garden club members, or horticulture professionals to speak to 4-H'ers.
- Involve older 4-H'ers and teens in assisting with training. They can bring items to meetings, assist in teaching, arrange tours, and make phone calls.

If you need special accommodations to participate in this program, please notify 4-H office, two weeks in advance of the event.

This program is brought to you by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, a service of the UD College of Agriculture and Natural Resources — a land-grant institution. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. If you have special needs that need to be accommodated, please contact the office two weeks prior to the event.